

Gotti sentenced to life

NEW YORK (AP) — John Gotti, the swaggering mobster who seized control of the most powerful crime family in the United States with a car-bomb hit on his former boss, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison. Co-defendant Frank "Frankie Locs" Locascio, a gambling family captain, also was sentenced to life. They were both fined \$250,000. U.S. District Judge Leo Glasser asked, "Mr. Gotti, would you like to say anything?" Mr. Gotti simply shook his head no. Mr. Glasser told Mr. Gotti that the federal sentencing guidelines "require the imposition of the sentence of life." On Monday, Mr. Glasser had refused to postpone sentencing. Mr. Gotti, 51, was convicted in federal court April 2 of racketeering and five murders, including masterminding the slaying of former gambino boss Paul "Big Paul" Castellano, who was gunned down in 1985 outside a New York steakhouse. Mr. Locascio, convicted of murder and racketeering along with Mr. Gotti, did speak Tuesday, insisting on his innocence. "I am not guilty..." said Locascio. "But I am guilty. I am guilty of being a good friend of John Gotti. If there was more men like John Gotti, we would have a better country." The pair received different sentences on an assortment of charges, but all will run concurrently.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدرها المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Saddam urges Iraqis to redouble efforts

NICOSIA (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein has called on Iraqis to double their efforts to overcome worsening hardships caused by the 22-month-old United Nations embargo, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Tuesday. President Saddam acknowledged that the sanctions were taking a heavy toll but said Iraqis should offer "more sacrifices in order to confront the forces of injustice, tyranny and aggression." "We are truly besieged in an effort to extinguish the light in our eyes and in our consciences," he was quoted as saying. "The U.S. domination of the United Nations and the Security Council has rendered them valueless," he said. "It made them lose their importance, influence and respect in the world." The agency said the president made the remarks Monday to a group of educators in Baghdad. Health officials said 41,000 Iraqis, 14,000 of them children under five years of age, died in the first four months of this year because of severe shortages of food and medicines. Baghdad also said that U.S. and British warplanes set fire to thousands of tonnes of harvested wheat and barley in northern Iraq with parachute flares last week. Iraq's parliament Sunday approved a resolution condemning "the deliberate attempt to deprive the Iraqi people of their food."

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King sends message to Suharto

JAKARTA (Petra) — Indonesian President Suharto Tuesday received a letter from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with bilateral relations. The message was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat at an audience he had with President Suharto. Mr. Suheimat conveyed to President Suharto the greetings of King Hussein. For his part, President Suharto asked Mr. Suheimat to convey his greetings and appreciation to the King and praised his unique role at the international arena and at the Non-Alignment Movement level. The Indonesian president also praised Jordan's role in strengthening the movement's work. Mr. Suharto and Dr. Suheimat discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations in economic and commercial fields.

Bombs hurled at Algerian police

ALGIERS (R) — Two attackers hurled a bomb into an Algerian police station overnight, escaping under a hail of bullets as another bomb exploded at a police dormitory nearby. The official news agency APS said neither bomb, in Guelma, 400 kilometres east of Algiers, caused casualties and the damage was slight. At least half a dozen bomb attacks have been carried out in Algeria in recent months but only one, on May 6 in the eastern city of Constantine, caused casualties. Three people, believed to be planting the bomb in Constantine University, were killed. Earlier this month, two newspapers said a crude bomb exploded in an Algiers mosque a few hours before head of state Mohammed Boudiaf was due to attend prayers. The bombs and shootings of some 70 members of the security forces since mid-February are largely blamed on Muslim fundamentalists, thwarted from taking power when authorities cancelled a general election their party was set to win.

Qatar signs defence pact with U.S.

MANAMA (R) — Qatar signed a defence cooperation agreement with the United States on Tuesday and said it would help maintain security and stability in the region. The official Qatar News Agency said Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmoud signed the agreement in Doha with U.S. Ambassador Mark G. Hambley. Kuwait and Bahrain, allied with Qatar through the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), have also signed defence agreements with Washington last year.

Iraq asks Turkey to release goods

ANKARA (R) — Iraq has asked Turkey to release Iraq-bound goods which it says Ankara wrongly impounded under a U.N. embargo on trade with Baghdad. Anatolia news agency said on Tuesday. It quoted Iraq's ambassador to Turkey, Rafi Daham Al Tikriti, as saying the embargo did not cover most of goods held in Turkish ports. The goods, worth about \$40 million, included milk powder, medical equipment, insecticides, machinery spare part and iron and steel products, Mr. Tikriti said. "These goods came to Turkish ports to be taken to Iraq before the embargo. U.N. Resolution 657 does not cover them. They should be released," he said.

Sudan rebels to attack oil workers

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels warned on Tuesday they would attack oil workers who tried to start operations in contested areas of the south. Elijah Malok of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) humanitarian wing told Reuters in Nairobi that rich oilfields near Bentu, 780 kilometres south of the capital, were conflict areas in the nine-year civil war. "We will start work there. It is a contested area," Mr. Malok said. The U.S.-based Chevron Oil Company owned commercial quantities of oil in the Bentu fields in the 1970s but had to stop work after rebels attacked its camp in 1984.

Exit poll predicts stunning Labour win

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Television exit polls predicted a stunning Labour Party victory in Israel's general election on Tuesday, a result which could speed up U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

THIS was Israel Television's computer projection of results from Tuesday's general election for 120 parliamentary seats, based on an exit poll of about 30,000 voters at more than 50 polling stations (previous strengths in brackets):

Rightist (48)	42
Likud (38)	33
New Liberal Party (3)	0
Tehiya (3)	0
Moladet (2)	3
Tsomet (2)	6
Religious (18)	14
United Tora Jewry (7)	4
National Religious Party (5)	5
Shas (5)	0
Gesat Yisrael (1)	0
Religious centrist (49)	60
Labour (35)	47
Meretz (10)	13
Tikva (1)	0
Far Left (5)	4
Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (3)	2
Progressive List for Peace (1)	0
Arab Democratic Party (1)	2

The polls predicted Labour and left-wing parties would win 64 seats in the 120-member parliament, overturning almost 15 years of Likud party rule.

The polls for state-owned television gave Labour 47 seats compared to 33 for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud. If confirmed it would be the hardline Likud's worst showing since 1969 when it won 26 seats.

The state network cautioned that its poll could prove wrong, but cheering broke out at Labour Party headquarters when it was broadcast.

While the poll gave Labour 47 seats, it projected 13 seats for Labour's likely ally, the left-wing Meretz bloc, and four seats for Arab parties which are virtually guaranteed not to back any Likud coalition.

But Labour and Meretz would need one more coalition ally to form a government, based on the exit poll. Likud and potential allies would have 56 seats, well short of what they need for a coalition, according to the poll.

"I want to see the final result. When there are (sample) results like this, I prefer to see the final results," said Mr. Shamir on army radio.

At Likud headquarters, the mood was shock and disbelief. "It's a lie," shouted one man.

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Libyan congress says bombing suspects could be tried outside

TRIPOLI (AP) — The Libyan People's Congress Tuesday announced two Libyan suspects in the bombing of the Pan Am 103 could be tried under United Nations or Arab League supervision.

The congress did not say where.

It said the suspects should receive "fair and just trial."

The decision may mean a softening in Libya's position which has so far refused to have the two men tried in Britain or the United States.

Abdul Razek Soms'a, the secretary general of the General People's Congress, a form of parliament, read out the decisions.

"The people basic congresses have no objection that the two men be tried through the Arab League's seven-man committee or through the United Nations in a fair court which shall be decided upon in the future."

He also called for improved relations with the U.S., France

aid Britain.

One of the 11-point decision called for U.N. Security Council Resolution 748 to be cancelled because of its "violation of the spirit of the U.N. Charter, in specific Article 7."

Article 7 calls for the use of force if necessary, to impose the sanctions.

The decision came after 11 days of heated debate within the congress over the country's domestic and foreign policies.

The Libyan resolution urged the United States and Britain to "establish relations on an equal footing" with Tripoli "within the framework of international law and so as to serve the joint interests of their respective peoples."

The resolution condemned "terrorism in all its shapes and forms" and said Libya was willing to "contribute to any international effort to eradicate terrorism and deal with its root causes."

A stormy debate on the fate of the two suspects began in the

Congress Monday after a speech by Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al Bishari.

He urged "a new page" in relations with the West. But he offered no opinion on what should happen to the Lockerbie suspects.

Some legislators flatly rejected handing them over to the United States or Britain and demanded a revision of the Security Council resolutions, the Cairo newspapers Al Ahram, Al Akhbar and Al Wafd reported.

Other legislators called for a "fair trial" of the suspects under supervision of the United Nations or the Arab League. They did not suggest where such a trial would be.

Some speakers side-stepped the surrender question and urged the government to improve relations with Western countries "in the interest of Libya's economy," Al Akhbar noted.

Those speakers were inter-

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Baker says START critical

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday urged the Senate to ratify the treaty slashing U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear weapons, saying the pact is critical to the end of the nuclear arms race.

Opening the formal ratification process for the historic accord, Mr. Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) treaty is the means by which we will begin to turn back the nuclear clock, advancing both strategic stability and predictability.

"With START ratification, the foundation of a safer world will be set in place and the prospect of nuclear armageddon safely locked away," he said.

Under START, the United States and Russia — each with about 10,000 nuclear warheads — would reduce those to about 8,500 warheads and 6,400 warheads respectively, according to the non-profit Arms Control Association.

But a new accord signed by President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin last week in Washington would go even further, bringing U.S. warheads to a level of 3,500 and Russian warheads to a level of 3,000 by 2003.

Mr. Baker said that historians may call the new agreement the end of cold war nuclear arms competition.

Hundreds of Somalis drown off Yemeni port

SANAA (Agencies) — Hundreds of Somali refugees, fleeing their war-torn country, are believed to have drowned after jumping off a hijacked ship to swim ashore to Yemen in a desperate bid to find sanctuary, shipping sources said Tuesday.

More than 700 of the 3,000 refugees aboard the sun-baked vessel jumped into the harbour Monday, the Geneva office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported.

Officials said some were seriously injured while others drowned. But they gave no breakdown.

The shipping sources in Yemen, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said 100 to 200 of the refugees who leapt into the sea made it to shore near the port of Aden.

The Yemeni navy is involved in an emergency operation to rescue the refugees.

U.N. officials said the ship became stranded off Aden at the weekend after wandering the Gulf of Aden for more than two weeks in search of safe haven.

Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for UNHCR, quoted a UNHCR fieldworker in Yemen as saying that of 750 people who had jumped from the ship into the sea, 34, including 27 children, died soon after.

"In the condition these people are in, that is a considerable drop. Many do not survive," she said.



Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat

Arabiya: Stationing of U.N. inspectors is not acceptable

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliament has no formal knowledge of an American proposal to station United Nations observers in Jordan to monitor the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq, but the idea of having foreign observers patrol Jordanian territory is completely "unacceptable in principle," Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat said Tuesday.

There have been reports in the past several days that Jordan was considering the American proposal, which was confirmed by the

U.S. Defence Department last week, but the Kingdom's deliberations have not reached any substantial stage, according to informed sources.

Asked to comment on the proposal at a press conference at his office Tuesday, Dr. Arabiyat said: "In principle, this matter is unacceptable. It is an infringement on Jordan's sovereignty and this will not be allowed."

Dr. Arabiyat was echoing the sentiments of many politicians and officials who have expressed the same opinion ever since the American proposal was first made about one year ago, forcing it to be shelved at that point in time.

Under the relevant statutes, Parli-

ment need not be consulted by the government for rejecting or accepting the proposal. However, observers expect the Lower House to criticise the government if it agrees to the plan.

Senior officials have confirmed that Jordan was coming under renewed pressure to accept the proposal, under which Washington is offering to withdraw the U.S.-led naval fleet now patrolling the Red Sea, monitoring cargo traffic to and from the port of Aden.

Many questions have been raised by senior officials and politicians over the proposal, including why Jordan was being singled out for alleged violations of the sanctions against

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House speaker says government delayed draft laws on parties and press, criticises journalists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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The political parties' draft law, currently being read for the last time in the House, and the press and publications' law, still under review by the House's Law Committee, were both "presented late" by the government, which "did not require them to be urgently discussed," Dr. Arabiyat said.

Speaking at a press conference at his office Tuesday, Dr. Arabiyat also criticised journalists and writers for failing to contribute to the current debate in Parliament over the two draft laws.

Criticising writers for writing "unauthenticated and undocumented" rhetoric, he said: "Not one journalist showed up at the Law Committee's meeting discussing the press and publica-

tions law."

Dr. Arabiyat devoted much of his press conference's time to urge journalists to address the "shortcoming in the country's (political and social) infrastructure."

He agreed that much needs to be done in reforming the basic procedures of the House itself, especially lengthening the House's ordinary sessions, and providing deputies with offices and assistants.

In its session Sunday the House spent over two hours discussing one article of the 29-article draft political parties law. At this pace, one journalist reminded Dr. Arabiyat, the law would not be approved in the life of this House since the law has still to go to the Upper House after passing the

lower chamber.

Asked about reports of some House factions' intention to impeach both Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul for banning 'Eid Al Adha prayers in open air and Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh for calling for the internationalisation of Jerusalem, Dr. Arabiyat said he and the House permanent office had so far received no signed petitions from deputies in this regard.

During the press conference, the House permanent office distributed two resolutions signed by the speaker, condemning the U.S. for burning Iraqi crops and Sudanese dissidents for attacking Sudanese clergy and leader Hassan Turabi in Ottawa in April.

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U.S. to step up Yugoslavia sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States on Tuesday called Serbian attacks on Sarajevo "barbaric" and announced it was tightening sanctions against the Belgrade government.

"It is hard to believe really in this day and age that armed forces will fire artillery and mortars indiscriminately into the heart of a city, flushing defenceless men, women and children out into the streets and then shooting them," Secretary of State James Baker said.

"It is barbaric and it is inhuman," he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Baker also said Washington would "consult and coordinate with others" on additional steps to be taken, including measures to ensure that relief operations were no longer blocked in Sarajevo, the besieged capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

United Nations relief columns have been fired on by Serbian militias and the airport has long been shut down (see page 8).

Mr. Baker announced three new U.S. actions against the Belgrade government of Serbia and Montenegro, which make up the remainder of Yugoslavia following fighting which erupted in the Balkans in June 1991.

They included the closure of the only remaining Yugoslav consulate in the United States, in Chicago, refusal to accept Belgrade's ambassador in Washington and a broadened effort for suspension of Serbia and Montenegro from international institutions.

The new sanctions built upon actions that Mr. Baker announced last month. Those unilateral actions, including closure of two Yugoslav consulates and ending of military ties with Belgrade, indicated impatience with what Washington perceived as European slowness to act against the Belgrade government of Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Baker said he would recommend the new sanctions to President George Bush on Tuesday. But the fact that he announced them publicly at the start of a Senate hearing on arms

Iraq says no oil deal yet

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday it was premature to predict a deal with the United Nations for the resumption of oil exports, suspended by an international trade embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait.

"It's premature to say an agreement was reached between the two sides about oil sales," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a commentary following four days of U.N.-Iraqi negotiations in Vienna.

The agency said Baghdad was awaiting details of the latest proposal before committing itself to a deal. The Iraqi negotiating team was flying home via Jordan on Tuesday.

The proposal "should be reviewed in both Baghdad and New York by Iraq and the (U.N.) Security Council, and after that one can say whether or not an agreement has been reached."

U.N. assistant secretary-general at the Vienna talks, Giandomenico Picco, said Monday the two sides had agreed on a package to present to the U.N. Security Council and Iraq's government.

"I think that almost all the technical issues have been cleared up," he said.

Mr. Picco said he could not comment on the details of the package, worked out in a round of talks that started last Friday.

A full economic embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait bars any oil sales not specifically authorised by the Security Council.

Two previous rounds of talks had failed to produce an agreement on terms of a proposed one-time sale of \$1.6 billion of Iraqi crude oil, with strict U.N. monitoring to ensure that profits were used to finance U.N. costs, war reparations and buy humanitarian needs of Iraq.

Iraq had insisted that the U.N. conditions would impinge on its sovereignty.

Before the embargo, Iraq was producing about 3.3 million barrels of crude a day. Current production is about 450,000 barrels a day.

"I do not think the Iraqis are ready yet, an oil company executive with experience of Middle East politics said in London.

He also noted speculation that the Bush administration would be reluctant for reasons of prestige to see Iraq exporting oil again before the November U.S. presidential election.

"But suppose Iraq does accept," the source said. "What could the Americans do then?"

Mehdi Varzi, who follows oil and Gulf politics for Kleinwort Benson Securities in London, agreed.

"You can't exclude an Iraqi U-turn," he said.

He added, however, that he still thought a deal was some months away even though the Vienna talks had clearly narrowed the gap on technical aspects of an accord.

The original U.N. proposal would allow Iraq to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion over six months, which would average out at about 450,000 to 500,000 barrels daily at current prices.

Iraq would like a higher limit while oil traders suspect that, when it eventually reenters the market, it will be difficult to "police," the volumes.

ANC pulls out of peace talks

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The African National Congress (ANC) announced on Tuesday it was breaking off democracy talks with South Africa's white government.

"The ANC has no option but to break off bilateral and CODESA (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) talks with the government," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa told a news conference.

Mr. Ramaphosa issued a list of demands that the white government would have to meet before negotiations could resume.

They include an international commission of inquiry into the country's political violence and last week's massacre in the Boipatong township that left 42 dead.

The ANC and black residents say the massacre was carried out by Zulu supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party who were assisted by police. Police and Inkatha deny the charge.

"The National Party regime of (President) F.W. De Klerk has brought our country to the brink of disaster," Mr. Ramaphosa told

the news conference. "The Boipatong massacre is one of the most chilling instances of the consequences of the actions of the regime."

"It cannot escape culpability," he added.

The ANC has long accused government security forces of having a hand in township violence, but the government attributes the thousands of deaths since 1984 to a war between the ANC and Inkatha.

The breakdown in talks has created the country's most serious political crisis since President De Klerk legalised the ANC and began negotiations in 1990.

Black leaders said patience with the government had evaporated because of a stalemate in black-white political talks and the Boipatong massacre.

"A government that had appeared to be amenable to discussion and persuasion has become arrogant, intransigent," said Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for anti-apartheid efforts.

Mr. Ramaphosa said Mr. De Klerk's response to the first of ANC demands would determine the speed with which bona fide negotiations could again take place.

— Termination of all covert operations by state security forces, including hit squad activity.

— All special forces to be disarmed and confined to barracks;

— All security force personnel involved in township violence to be prosecuted;

— Oppression in self-governing homelands to be ended;

— Migrant worker Hostel to be immediately fenced in and phased out and permanent guard posted;

— All dangerous weapons to be banned;

— An international commission of inquiry into the Boipatong massacre and international monitoring of township violence;

— All political prisoners to be released, and

— All repressive legislation repealed.

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Foreign oil firms defy Saudi threats to quit Yemen border zone

NICOSIA (AP) — North American oil companies prospecting along the disputed Saudi Arabia-Yemen border are ignoring Saudi warnings to quit the region which Riyadh claims is its territory, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

The respected oil industry newsletter said the United States was making "active, but quiet diplomatic moves" to defuse the crisis which threatens Yemen's emergent oil industry at a critical time in the country's political and economic development.

The long-simmering border quarrel has strained relations between the two neighbours which were already in poor shape because of Yemen's perceived support for Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

The trouble flared in March, when the Saudi Foreign Ministry warned the six oil companies operating in the disputed area, including the Red Sea, that they were trespassing and that Riyadh would take whatever measures it deemed necessary to safeguard its interests.

Yemen, alarmed at the threat to its oil industry, has rejected the Saudi claim.

British Petroleum suspended operations in its 9,000-square-kilometre Antafash exploration zone in the Red Sea several weeks ago, claiming force majeure.

France's Elf Aquitaine Petroleum is keeping a low profile and "observing the situation" after drilling one well last December in its 42,217-square-kilometre Sirr-Hazar block, the weekly newsletter said.

But the American and Canadian companies — Hunt Oil, Phillips, Petro-Canada and Atlantic Richfield — are continuing to operate normally, MEES executive editor Walid Khadduri said in a front-page report on a recent visit to Yemen.

Hunt, which discovered oil in northern Yemen in 1984, is carrying out "production and development operations" in its 14,000-square-kilometre concession in the Marib-Jawf region, Mr. Khadduri reported.

Petro-Canada is going ahead with its exploration programme and is drilling its first well in its 12,000-square-kilometre Habrut sector, he said.

Atlantic Richfield, the operator for a consortium headed by Ireland's Tullow Oil and Copec Yemen, is conducting an aero-magnetic survey of the 14,000-square-kilometre north Sanau region, the newsletter said.

Phillips is preparing to drill one well early next year on the western side of its 4,300-square-kilometre Upper Jawf concession, MEES added.

The territory involved in the border quarrel is 800 kilometres of desert running from the Red Sea coast to the Rub Al Khali, the notorious "Empty Quarter" in the centre of the peninsula.

It has been in dispute since the days of the Ottoman Empire, which crumbled with Turkey's defeat in World War I. But it has long been considered Yemeni territory.

The Republic of Yemen, on the peninsula's southwestern corner, emerged with the union of North Yemen and South Yemen in May 1990. The 12 million people make it the most populous nation on the Arabian Peninsula.

The Saudis, who seized border provinces from Yemen in a brief war in 1934, have long been uneasy about a merger. The border dispute sharpened after Yemen's oil strikes.

When the infant republic supported Iraq after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the Saudis booted out nearly one million Yemenis.

That cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances and exacerbated Yemen's economic woes.

The two governments have indicated they are prepared to negotiate on the border issue. But given the complexity of the dispute, involving tribal rivalries as well as territorial claims, that could take a long time.

It took 10 years for the Yemenis to reach agreement with Oman on their eastern border.

Mr. Khadduri noted that if the dispute with the Saudis "is not settled, it will remain a source of conflict that could erupt at any time."

Yemen, long one of the poorest countries in the Arab World, is banking on its newfound oil reserves to improve its economy.

Most of its known recoverable oil reserves of five billion barrels — modest compared to Saudi Arabia's 255 billion — lie in the Shabwa and Hadramut regions and are not in dispute.

But the Yemenis are driving to expand their oil and natural gas fields to the fullest and halting exploration work along the northern border would be a major setback.



CAMPAIGN DEBRIS: Final public debates occupied Jerusalem Monday mark Tuesday's election campaign debris in front of a store in town

Israelis want change but do not expect it

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis voting in a general election on Tuesday said they wanted political change but did not expect it.

"I hope very much that things will change," said Oded Eliahar, 61, who voted in the affluent Jerusalem neighbourhood of Rehavia. "But I doubt very much that it will."

Picco says resignation linked to hostage release

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. hostage negotiator Giandomenico Picco said on Monday a key factor in his recent decision to resign was the release of the two remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

In a telephone interview from Vienna, where he has been holding oil talks with an Iraqi delegation, the 43-year-old assistant secretary-general vehemently denied his decision was prompted by objections to U.N. assignments.

"My objective was to help the liberation of the two Germans," he told Reuters, referring to aid workers Thomas Knemeyer and Heinrich Struëbig, who were freed last week after more than three years' captivity in Lebanon.

"I've completed that and that was the turning point in my career."

Mr. Picco denied reports circulating at the United Nations that he had been asked by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to take up a U.N. assignment in Kabul, saying: "I was never offered to go to Afghanistan."

Mr. Picco, one of the stars of the U.N. secretariat, which he joined more than 19 years ago, also denied a report he had been assigned to work under one U.N. undersecretary-general after raising objections to working under another.

"I never asked for anything nor commented on the assignment. I did what I was told to do," he said.

Mr. Picco said his decision to resign was not suddenly and was announced as soon as he informed the organisation last Friday.

When it was noted the announcement came just as he was beginning a new round of talks in the Australian capital on the possible sale of a limited quantity of Iraq's U.N.-embargoed oil, he said: "My timing had a lot to do with the liberation of the two Germans. To me personally that was the key."

Mr. Picco last year helped win the release of more than half a dozen other Westerners held by various Lebanese groups.

He rejected a suggestion that he would be reluctant to face the wife of Israeli air force flyer Ron Arad, who was downed over Lebanon in 1986 and remains a prisoner.

"Since I will be working for the United Nations until July 20, I continue my assignment until the last day," he said, referring to his efforts on behalf of Arad and of other prisoners or missing persons, including Lebanese held by Israel.

Confirming that he would be entering the private sector, Mr. Picco said he would be doing "a number of things" but declined to give details for the time being.

ICRC steps up effort on Gulf war PoWs, missing

BAGHDAD (R) — An international Red Cross official said on Tuesday he had held "constructive" talks in Iraq on the issue of prisoners of war (PoWs) and missing from Gulf wars.

"The ICRC is not sparing any effort to find a solution to this human tragedy," said Andreas Kuhn, deputy director-general of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Kuhn gave no other details of his three-day stay in Baghdad during which he met Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer and Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majed.

But he told reporters further meetings were planned with other Iraqi officials before his departure on Thursday.

Similar talks were on with Iran, which like Iraq, holds thousands of PoWs from the 1980-88 war.

The talks in Baghdad also concerned the fate of Kuwaitis, Saudis and other nationals missing in last year's Gulf war over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Gulf war ceasefire accord demanded that Iraq return all Kuwaitis taken from the emirate and scrap its weapons of mass destruction before U.N. sanctions can be eased or lifted.

The ICRC published a notice in Baghdad newspapers listing 850 Kuwaitis it said were still missing in Iraq.

"We talked over the ICRC's contribution in assisting in the search for these people," Mr. Kuhn said.

Both Iraq and Iran give conflicting figures of PoWs from their earlier conflict. Iraq says about 5,000 of its men are still held in Iraq, which in turn says 30,000 of its soldiers are languishing in Iranian PoW camps.

The ICRC too has its own estimate: "We presume there are still at least 20,000 Iraqi PoWs in Iran and roughly around 1,000 Iranian PoWs in Iraq."

Baghdad and Tehran exchanged more than 75,000 prisoners since Iraq seized Kuwait in August 1990.

The two countries agreed in Geneva last April to an ICRC-brokered plan to resume the repatriation of remaining PoWs on both sides. Mr. Kuhn said the accord had yet to be implemented.

Iran expelled the ICRC in March, just before the Geneva accord, accusing the Swiss agency's delegates of overstepping their mandate.

"Discussions are still underway with the Iranian authorities to find ways to repatriate as quickly as possible," Mr. Kuhn said.

"The ICRC is very much willing to send a high-ranking delegation to Iran to discuss the issue of PoWs."

U.N. team visiting Iraqi chemical sites

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. team is visiting chemical sites across the country to oversee Iraqi preparations to destroy a chemical arsenal.

Garth Whitty, the team leader, told reporters that the major task of the visit was to familiarise the team with Iraqi chemical plants which he described "as huge and sprawling."

Mr. Whitty said, "some of Iraq's chemical sites are huge and U.N. experts need considerable time to know their whereabouts when visiting them."

"Our mission is to get acquainted with these sites before the arrival of the main team by the end of the month."

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms Iraq has to get rid of its chemical weapons and means of producing them and Mr. Whitty said he was in Baghdad to see the degree of progress made by the Iraqis in this area.

"We are part of an advance mission. We are here to oversee the plans to destroy chemicals that have been concentrated at Muthana and other sites," the Briton said.

Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, is the site designated by the U.N. for the destruction of Iraq's chemical, ballistic and nuclear weapons.

Most of Iraq's 45,000 filled chemical munitions have been moved to Muthana facility.

The Iraqis were asked by U.N. experts to set up special plants at the site for the destruction of mustard gas and other chemical substances.

"One is an incinerator to burn the mustard gas and the other a hydrolysis plant to burn nerve agents," he said.

"A great deal to progress has been made by all those people (Iraqis) included in the hydrolysis plant and the incinerator," Mr. Whitty, 42, added.

Nearby, police chased away young activists of the left-wing Meretz party who blasted their campaign song on radios and tried to hand out green candy and bumper stickers. No campaigning is allowed near polling booths.

In an upper-class Tel Aviv neighbourhood, young Israelis in swimsuits with dogs and babies waited in a long queue to vote for one of the 25 parties contesting 120 seats in parliament.

"This country needs a change badly. I would prefer a young fresh leader but I voted Labour because this country cannot continue under Likud rule," said Vered Gilboa, 31, holding her one-year-old daughter.

In the central town of Zichron Yaacov, one person was hurt in a fight outside a polling station, army radio said.

A lacklustre campaign pitted Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin, who favours trading occupied land for peace with Arabs, against ruling Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a hard-liner who has vowed never to cede one inch of occupied territory.

"I'm one of those pessimists who thinks nothing will change. The campaign was one of the silliest and most boring things I've ever seen," said Oded Eliahar, 61, outside one of Jerusalem's polling stations.

Election day was a national holiday and most businesses in occupied Jerusalem were closed. Israelis streamed by car to beaches, zoos and picnic spots.

On the way, they passed young activists standing on street corners holding up banners for rival parties.

Labour and Likud, who dwarf the 23 other parties but will need their support in any post-election coalition building, busied supporters and new immigrants whose votes they hope to catch to polling stations.

Opinion polls have said about 20 per cent of voters were undecided.

Big turnout in Ethiopia poll despite violence

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Voter turnout was high in Ethiopia's regional elections despite some violence in areas populated by the large Oromo ethnic group, government sources said Monday.

"The high voter turnout is a vote for peace. It is a genuine demand for self-determination," said the electoral commission on Sunday's polls, when an estimated 19 million people out of an eligible 33 million voted.

The elections will help set up 14 federal-type governments on district and regional levels in a bid to satisfy ethnic demands for autonomy and prevent a return to the 30-year civil war that ended 13 months ago.

But some polling stations were attacked by forces of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which boycotted the elections due to what it saw as intimidation by its dominant government partner, the state-run Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said.

About 100 OLF fighters beat up voters when they vandalised a polling station at Jeldu in western Shoa and occasional gunfire and explosions rocked the town of Ambo, 125 kilometres west of Addis Ababa late on Saturday, ENA reported.

"We do not consider it an election. We will not accept the outcome," said OLF Deputy Secretary-General Lencho Letta.

Last week of OLF announced the polls boycott, accusing the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of detaining its supporters, closing offices and tampering with the registration of voters and candidates in Oromo areas.

Mr. Letta said he had withdrawn his troops out of camps where they placed earlier this year to end clashes between EPRDF and OLF forces. He warned that fighting could now erupt again.

The EPRDF and OLF are former guerrilla groups which helped each other overthrow dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam last May. The dominant EPRDF invited the OLF and two dozen other factions to join it in the interim government.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Kurdish rebels kill 11 people in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish separatist guerrillas killed 11 people and wounded seven others in southeast Turkey, Anatolian news agency reported on Tuesday. It said the rebels killed 10 people and wounded two in a raid near the town of Gercus in Batman province. They killed one person and wounded five in an attack near Guroymak in Bitlis province. It did not say when the raids took place. The latest deaths brought to 44 the number of people killed in eastern and southeastern Turkey since Sunday. Turkish troops killed 20 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels and lost six dead in a clash early on Monday at a military post near Yuksekova on the Iranian border, Anatolian said. Two unidentified gunmen were shot dead by security forces in the northeastern Black Sea province of Artvin, where the PKK has not previously been active, the agency said. Five civilians died in a PKK raid on a village in the southeastern Bingol on Sunday night. More than 3,900 people have been killed in Turkey since the PKK launched its fight for an independent Kurdish state in 1984.

Morocco rejects Polisario election protest

RABAT (R) — The Polisario Front fighting Morocco for independence of Western Sahara has no right to protest against elections being held in the area because it is a totalitarian organisation, a founder-member of the group said Monday. Omar Hadrami, a founder-member of the Polisario who defected to Morocco, responded in a statement to a protest by the guerrilla group on Sunday against Morocco's decision to hold elections this year in the disputed territory it controls as well as in the rest of the country. "The Polisario is a totalitarian organisation which has never known elections. (Its leaders) were never elected and thus have no legitimacy to represent a population it sequesters by force and isolation in the desert," Mr. Hadrami said. He was referring to thousands of Saharan refugees living in camps in the Tindouf area of southwestern Algeria whom Morocco claims are being held against their will. Mr. Hadrami added that the people of Western Sahara "have always elected their representatives in parliament, and on the local and professional levels, like the rest of Moroccans." Morocco plans to hold its first rural, municipal and legislative elections in eight years before the end of the year, including in Western Sahara.

Egypt to open embassies in 4 ex-Soviet states

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt will open embassies in the former Soviet Union states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Azerbaijan, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday. A ministry statement said Assistant Foreign Minister Mohammad Issa will visit the four countries to set up the embassies and discuss ways of improving bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Amr Musa also invited his counterparts in the four republics to Cairo, the statement said. Egypt recognised members of the Commonwealth of Independent States soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Israeli army revises tale of Chinese newsmen

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army has revised its tale of a Chinese journalist crashing through the Egyptian border into the occupied Gaza Strip desperate to cover Tuesday's general election. An army statement said Tang Shizeng of the Xinhuas News Agency did not crash the border as it reported earlier, but was let through without normal checks by a guard. When the guard's mistake was noted, troops went looking for Mr. Shizeng, brought him back to the Rafah crossing point, submitted him to routine checks, and allowed him to enter. Earlier the army had said Mr. Shizeng was put back across the frontier into Egypt.

Turkey sends food aid to Mongolia

ANKARA (R) — Turkey sent 26 tonnes of food aid to Mongolia on Monday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said. Two military cargo planes flew the supplies to Mongolia's capital Ulan Bator. Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpiyn Gombosuren had spoken of his country's need for relief aid during a visit to Ankara in May, the ministry said.

Earthquake shakes southern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake measuring 4.2 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale jolted southern Iran early Tuesday. Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said the quake was most felt in the cities of Behbahan and Ramhormuz in the oil-rich Khuzestan province at 7:52 a.m. (0322 GMT). No reports of casualties or damage were immediately available, said IRNA, monitored in Nicosia. The seismography centre at Tehran University said the epicentre of the quake was reported 500 kilometres southwest of Tehran. Earthquakes are common in Iran. A June 1990 temblor killed more than 50,000 people in a northwestern province. That quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale, a gauge of energy released as measured by ground motion.

Press, observers barred from Algerian trial

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has barred the international press and foreign observers from this week's trial of Muslim fundamentalist leaders, state radio said on Tuesday. "The trial is an internal problem," the radio said, quoting what it called "the organisers of the trial." Only the national media will witness proceedings of the military court trying outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leader Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj from Saturday, it said. The two face the court in Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital, on charges including conspiracy and undermining state security. The maximum penalty is death. No official comment was available on the radio report. Officials at the Defence Ministry, asked for details of arrangements for accreditation of foreign journalists, have repeatedly told Reuters to contact them later. "Call back tomorrow," a secretary in the press office repeated on Tuesday. Senior Algerian officials earlier said the proceedings would be open to the press, including foreign journalists. The radio said the trial, with about 100 witnesses and 19 defence lawyers, was expected to last three weeks. Head of state Mohammed Boudiaf, at a news conference for Algerian journalists on Monday, said the trial was not political.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME 77111-19

18:00 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Cart Vert
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:10 Doc: Visionaries
22:00 News in English
22:30 A Tale of two Cities

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:57 Dhuhr
15:18 'Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianista Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 649922
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 30
Aqaba 22 / 37
Djizzah 15 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 47. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 699225
Dr. Mohammad Masnaa 741444
Dr. Basim Qudusani 640324
First pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nabrook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 84342
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 910230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642812
Jalal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 661174
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Masdar Hospital 667229
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahl, Abdali 661646
Indian, Al-Muhajir 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60234050
Amman Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)985732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
RBM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)77275
Rn Al Nafes Hospital (02)74710
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
11:00 London (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Beirut (RJ)
13:30 Colombo (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Riyadh (RJ)
15:00 Dhahran (RJ)
15:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
16:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
16:30 New Delhi (RJ)
17:00 Sanaa (RJ)
17:30 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:10 Karachi (PK)
11:30 Jeddah (SU)
11:30 Sanaa (Y)
12:45 Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
14:30 Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 Beirut (RJ)
14:30 Colombo (RJ)
15:00 Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Riyadh (RJ)
16:00 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
17:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
17:30 New Delhi (RJ)
18:00 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Damascus (PK)
09:15 Beirut (ME)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (red) 700 / 600
Apricot 400 / 300
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukimmar) 500 / 500
Banana 500 / 360
Cabbage 110 / 70
Carrot 240 / 200
Cauliflower 80 / 60
Cucumbers (large) 130 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 130 / 80
Eggplant 240 / 90
Garlic 750 / 650
Lemon 80 / 40
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 120 / 80
Onion (dry) 130 / 100
Onion (green) 130 / 100
Oranges 400 / 250
Potato 200 / 180
Peanut 320 / 280
Peas 450 / 70
Pumpkin 500 / 250
Pepper (hot) 320 / 280
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 280
Pistachio 220 / 180
Sweet Mahon 240 / 180
Tomato 110 / 50
Watermelon 110 / 40

Prince Hassan calls for enhancing international cooperation and dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday chaired a board of directors of the Islamic Academy for Science and was briefed on the academy's activities over the past five years.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of focusing on specific subjects and on learning about the programmes and projects carried out by the various economic groups, including those in South East Asia.

Prince Hassan called for international cooperation and dialogue, saying that cooperation and dialogue contribute to progress and development.

On the academy's forthcoming session, due to be held in August in Malaysia, Prince Hassan urged members to focus on the scientific and practical ways of linking environment with development. He said human resource is the core of development.

The academy, which was established in 1986 following a decision passed by the Fourth Islamic Conference held in Casablanca in 1984, aims to enhance interaction among Muslim scholars and facilitate the exchange of expertise and opinion.

The Amman-based academy groups 36 Islamic scholars from the Islamic World.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma holds Tuesday a press conference focusing on promoting the role of women in Jordan (Petra photo)

Princess Basma promotes role of Jordanian women

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Committee on Women's Affairs is preparing a national strategy on promoting the role of women in the Kingdom and is enlisting the help of the public and private sectors.

The announcement was made at a press conference here Tuesday by the committee's chairperson, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Princess Basma said that once the strategy is ready a national conference will be held to debate its provisions.

The committee is holding a series of meetings to review papers aimed at finalising the proposed strategy, said the Princess at the press conference, attended by several ministers and committee members.

The Princess said that the papers deal with the legal, health, cultural, social and housing problems facing Jordanian women and that the committee is trying to incorporate all these materials in a national strategy.

The national strategy is expected to present general policies concerning the fields in which Jordanian women work and prospects for coordinating and cooperating with public and private organisations, said the Princess.

Most importantly, she noted, is enabling Jordanian women to contribute more positively towards socio-economic development in the Kingdom.

Noting that public awareness campaigns are needed to shed more light on the role of women in society, the Princess said that amendments to existing legislations and laws should be introduced catering to more positive roles.

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz told the press conference that the committee was expected to finalise its work on the national strategy by the end of this year.

Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashagbeh called on the concerned parties to give due attention to solutions of women's problems in rural regions and villages with the help of voluntary organisations and charitable societies, including the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said that while planning the strategy the committee will take into account the problem of unemployment among Jordanian women.

He said about 35 per cent of the total number of unemployed people in the Kingdom are women.

The national strategy on women will also consider providing training for women in social and health services, the minister added.

Referring to the new Labour Law still to be endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Kabarti said that the law would help increase women's involvement in various fields of work and ensure the right of their organisations to issue publications and periodicals that promote women's causes.

The National Committee on Women, which was set up by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last March, comprises the ministers of planning, labour and social development as well as heads of several government departments, private organisations and prominent personalities such as Mrs. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women.

Jordan urges world to help bear burden of Palestinian refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Tuesday urged the international community to help it bear the responsibility of caring for Palestinian refugees, most of whom have been living in the Kingdom since 1948.

Jordan, with the largest number of Palestinian refugees in the Arab world, has made strenuous efforts and shouldered serious responsibility in supporting Palestinians; the time has come for the world community to extend meaningful assistance to the Kingdom, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said while formally opening a two-day meeting of donor countries to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

Jordan is doing all it can to aid the refugees but the Palestinian issue is the world community's responsibility since Israel refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, said Dr. Abu Jaber, whose comments were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The meeting is being attended by 24 donor nations that offer financial and other contributions to the agency set up in 1950. UNRWA offers educational, health and social services to nearly 2.5 million registered refugees living in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Since the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars, which caused massive Palestinian flight to Jordan,



Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Tuesday addresses the opening session of a two-day meeting of donor countries to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)

the Kingdom has been facing mounting difficulties in coping with the task of caring for the refugees, Dr. Abu Jaber noted.

He added that the Kingdom is faced with another migration yet of the more than 330,000 expatriates who returned from the Gulf.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the Arab parties entered U.S.-led Middle East process on the basis of international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to ensure the return of land in exchange for peace and also on the basis of Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"Resolution 242 provides for a

just solution for the Palestinian refugees and Resolution 338 calls for the return of Palestinians who were forced to leave their homeland in the 1967 war," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan realises the heavy burden facing UNRWA in raising contributions but the agency's realisation of Jordan's own burdens should provide an incentive for further efforts to ensure more resources. He said that Jordan is concerned over UNRWA's poor chances of raising more donations which are badly needed.

Dr. Abu Jaber paid tribute to UNRWA for its continued endeavours to alleviate the suffering

of the refugees by providing basic needs in health and education.

The Minister appealed to the donor nations to increase their contributions, financially and politically and to help promote the peace process.

UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen said the peace process helped bring the Palestinian cause to the fore and to involve the world community in more meaningful discussions of the issue.

Mr. Turkmen said that should the peace process achieve Palestinian autonomy, UNRWA will closely cooperate with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

FAO stresses benefits of machine maintenance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Tuesday opened a three-day symposium entitled Agricultural Machinery Rehabilitation Programme to discuss technical, financial and administrative requirements to maintain agricultural equipment and machinery.

Twelve specialists from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Yemen and Libya are taking part in the meetings organised in cooperation with the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture.

FAO representative Adrianus Rijk underlined the economic benefits of rehabilitating agricultural machinery in developing nations. He said that the Rome-based FAO would continue to support national endeavours in this area and in promoting agricultural development schemes.

At the outset of the meeting, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh said in a speech that over time the efficiency of machinery and equipment in agriculture is reduced, adversely affecting production and frustrating farmers. A way should be found to organise proper and regular maintenance of equipment to save the farmers from

losses and the cost of buying expensive new machines, said Dr. Gharaibeh.

Furthermore, failure to maintain tools could hurt the economy, which relies heavily on agriculture, Dr. Gharaibeh added.

The university president urged FAO and concerned authorities to help minimise inputs so more crops can be produced, contributing to the country's efforts to ensure food security for an increasing population. He also underlined the need for FAO to help in national efforts to train personnel in the rehabilitation of farming machinery.

According to Walid Abu Gharbi, dean of the agriculture faculty, at least 70 per cent of farming machinery in the developing world are out of order, negatively affecting food production.

Dr. Abu Gharbi demanded that the agricultural sectors in Jordan and in other developing nations rely more on maintaining equipment to ensure bumper harvests.

He also demanded that more personnel receive training in the skill of maintaining and operating machinery.

JCO urges help for rural areas

MAAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) seeks to help agricultural cooperatives in Jordan increase production and market products, JCO Director-General Jamal Al Bedour said here Tuesday.

Addressing the opening of a workshop on education and guidance for cooperatives in Maan and nearby areas, Dr. Bedour said that JCO was doing its utmost to encourage self-sufficiency and greater food production.

JCO has programmes promoting rural development, but wants the government to introduce amendments on land ownership and land use laws and to modernise agriculture, Dr. Bedour said.

At the same time, JCO is hoping that cooperatives will launch projects that would offer employment opportunities, Dr. Bedour said.

He added that JCO is currently planning to implement a fishery in Aqaba and to set up a sheep-fattening station in Shobak. It will also expand its programme of selling equipment and agricultural inputs to farmers.

Dr. Bedour later opened an exhibition displaying children's clothes, embroidery and other products of cooperative organisations.

He also opened a new complex for agricultural services which provides local farmers with pesticides, fertilisers and other materials.

Mr. Bedour also visited the phosphate mine at Shidieh to inspect the miner's cooperative society its services.

Stranded pilgrims burden bridge, police and travellers at border

AMMAN (J.T.) — The unexpected influx of pilgrims trying to cross to the occupied Arab territories and Israel's decision to reduce the number of Arabs allowed to cross each day have burdened police stations near the King Hussein Bridge and inconvenienced travellers, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

A statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) said Tuesday that the bridge, the only way to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for Arabs and Palestinians with permits living in Jordan or abroad, was congested by thousands of people trying to cross.

Earlier this month, Israeli authorities restricted the number of Arabs allowed to cross each day from 2,500 to 1,700.

The PSD had earlier estimated the pilgrims making their trip back to the occupied lands at 4,000 people but that number suddenly grew to 7,000 with the arrival of additional pilgrims from the airport," who flew in from Saudi Arabia noted the statement.

The statement said that originally the 4,000 pilgrims would have been able to cross between Sunday and Tuesday, but because of the sudden increase the process will take longer.

In addition, the PSD and police centres at the bridge are giving priority to the sick and those whose permits are about to expire, according to the statement.

The PSD said that because of the arrangements and the backlog of those who have already registered to cross will be delayed.

Petra, reporting from the bridge area, said that large numbers of travellers, including the pilgrims who have just returned from Mecca, have spent at least two nights in the open, hoping to cross early in the morning.

The police stations will continue to register the names of travellers to organise their travel across the bridge, but those wanting to cross from now on will be given dates in late July, the PSD statement said.

Prior to crossing, usually the pilgrims are housed at the Pilgrims City near the bridge and the South Shuneh town in the Jordan Valley. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, in charge of pilgrims, has increased its assistance, providing pilgrims with more water, food and medicine.

Jordan, Turkey to sign protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Turkish committee on Trade and Technical Cooperation resumed its meetings in Amman Tuesday and discussed the provisions of a protocol to be signed Thursday by the two sides.

The Jordanian team is led by Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Essour and on the Turkish side by Minister of State Erman Sahin. Committee sources were quoted as saying that the deliberations and recommendations reached during the talks that started Monday will be included in the protocol, which would cover cooperation in trade, industry, economy, tourism, archaeology and transport.

Mr. Sahin and his delegation also had a meeting on Tuesday with the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss promoting economic cooperation.

Chamber President Khaldoun Abu Hassan said that Jordan would benefit from Turkey's expertise in developing exports and organising trade fairs. He said that Jordan would like to sell medicine, plastic products, electronic appliances, and other goods like phosphate and potash to Turkey to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

Mr. Sahin said that he felt genuine desire in Jordan for cooperation in view of the strong cultural and historic ties between

the two countries. He said that Mr. Abu Hassan's proposals for increasing sales of Jordanian products will be seriously considered.

Discussions covered Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in training Jordanians in the leather, clothing and textile industries.

The Turkish minister later had a meeting with Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat about cooperation in tourism. They discussed implementing a 1991 bilateral protocol and a 1966 tourist agreement.

The two sides also discussed prospects of Turkey contributing to Jordanian efforts to restore archaeological sites dating back to the Islamic era.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

IFAD chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Idrees Al Jazairi arrived in Amman Tuesday evening on a three-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Jazairi will hold talks with the ministers of agriculture and planning and other officials here on IFAD's activities and the possibility of financing small agricultural projects in Jordan. Mr. Jazairi will also visit the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF) to be acquainted with the works in the field of improving living conditions for women in the rural areas.

Abu Jaber receives Turkish minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber received Tuesday Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin and the accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them in the various fields. They also reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and the progress of the peace process. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mu'tasem Bilbeisi.

Austrian Interpol official in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Austrian chapter of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) and head of the criminal investigations office at Vienna Airport arrived Tuesday here on a week-long visit to Jordan for talks with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuhed. The Austrian police officials will visit a number of PSD departments, where they will be briefed on their role in combating crime.

Veteran newscaster dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif mourned Tuesday the death of the late Salahuddin Al Momeni, a veteran newscaster who passed away Tuesday of a heart attack. The late Momeni worked for Radio Jordan for 25 years. Before his death, he was the head of the newscasters unit at the radio station station.



Apple systems expert trains a class on the advanced operating system, Apple UNIX

Apple Computer dealer trains on Apple UNIX

Ideal systems, the authorised dealer for Apple Computer in Jordan, is holding training sessions on Apple UNIX for Arab Business Machines, the regional Apple office in the Middle East.

On Saturday June 20, training on the advanced operating system, Apple UNIX, started for regional Apple Computer dealers at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Dealers from Qatar, U.A.E.,

Kuwait, Oman, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia are taking part in this five-day course that is being taught by Arab Business Machines, the regional Apple office in the Middle East.

Negotiations are being held with Apple International to have Jordan become the regional training centre in the Middle East.

Iranian-Jordanian venture in tractors proposed

AMMAN (Petra) — Iran Tuesday offered to launch a joint venture with Jordan to manufacture tractors and machinery for fertilisers and spraying pesticides. Iran notes that it has vast experience in this field.

The bid was made by visiting Iranian Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Mahdi Mufidi at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Essour.

The Iranian government wants to cooperate with Jordan in manufacturing machinery and hopes to boost cooperation with Jordan in other fields, said Mufidi at the meeting following talks between the Iranian official and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Dr. Essour welcomed the proposal and suggested that a joint technical committee be set up to study this project.

Earlier, Mr. Mufidi and his accompanying delegation met with Mr. Khaldoun Abu Hassan,

president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and chamber council member to discuss economic cooperation.

Mr. Mufidi called for more contacts and trade between Jordanian and Iranian businessmen.

Present at the meeting was Mr. Haider Murad, deputy chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, who said in his last visit to Iran that he felt that the Persian state was willing to trade with Jordan.

The latest contacts between Amman and Tehran, he said, have resulted in an increase in the volume of trade and led to the organisation of the first Iranian industrial fair, which opened in Amman last Monday.

According to Mohammad Smeidi, head of the Budget Department, there is potential for Jordanian-Iranian trade and for Jordan to benefit from Iran's expertise in engineering and industry.

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Laws and regulations in pollution control

By Dr. Faris Ammarin

The issue of environment pollution and protection has not eluded Jordan and, in order to address the problems related to environment, the government sets forth goals and targets, strategies and plans and then vests power and authority in the institutions it sees fit to implement and achieve the anticipated result.

In 1980, when the government in Jordan realised the importance of environment protection, it established the Department of Environment under the aegis of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Since then, the department has been working seriously and diligently to tackle this national, and international, issue that is increasing in importance. Most recently, the department introduced the national strategy for the protection of the environment. It contains guidelines for the decision-makers on various environmental facets,

covering the agriculture sector, air, water and industry. It is in fact a valuable reference that can be used when we set out specific goals and targets.

The department now is in the midst of establishing laws and regulations. The process of setting up laws and regulations is the most crucial step in environment protection.

Let us examine what happens in the process of law formulation, to enable us to shed some light on how to avoid environment pollution.

In the case of pollution control, the government can determine certain standards for the quality of air, water and soil, in order to issue laws and enforce them. In the case of water pollution, standards can be set as targets for water quality. The establishment of these standards is a crucial step in pollution-control programmes. They provide us with a measuring tool to determine the programme's progress and a basis for deciding what actions should be

taken by the programme.

Water quality combines goals and criteria into specific numerical levels of quality to be applied to a body of water; for example, no more than X parts of suspended solids in the Zarga River, or no more than X parts of sulfur dioxide per thousands of millions for any 10 hour period in Amman city.

Effluent emissions standards prescribe how much pollution is to be allowed from any given source. Both emission and quality standards are complex in their setting.

A crucial step that comes after issuing laws for standards is enforcing them. Many methods of enforcement have been suggested and used in many countries around the world. In Jordan's case, the social optimum can be attained through taxes and subsidies.

In economics literature, the classic form of government intervention in this situation is the payment of a subsidy to those

whose actions take into consideration pollution norms and the imposing of taxes upon those whose actions cause harm to the environment.

On the other hand, we have the efficient charge method, where a charge is imposed on the units of pollution emitted by polluters; it forces polluters to reduce their emissions.

In dealing with effluent charges we have to distinguish between two kinds of damage functions: separable and non-separable. The government in Jordan has to take them into consideration when adopting such a method. A pollution damage function is separable if there are several waste dischargers and the pollution damage imposed at any downstream point of the Zarga River is simply the sum of the damage that would be caused by the individual waste dischargers, each acting in isolation. On the other hand, if the damage function is non-separable, the government cannot tell how much dam-

age any waste discharger is causing and could appropriately be charged for, unless it knows the amounts of pollution being emitted by other dischargers at the same time. Instead of needing to know merely the individual damage function and being able to achieve an optimal solution by imposing damage costs on the waste dischargers and letting them respond, the government must know the cost functions for waste reduction at each interdependent point of waste discharge. It must determine the optimum level of waste reduction for each point before charges are assessed on effluents in order to obtain an optimal solution.

No matter what method or approach we adopt in Jordan to control pollution, we have to always remember that pollution is something that is inevitable and the concern is to know what degree of it is acceptable. The issue is how to limit pollution to the extent that the carrying capacity of the environment can

cope with. If we want to achieve a pure and perfect environment, we can then close down all industries and strive for zero growth, but our real objective is how to strike a balance between economic growth and environment preservation. Both can complement each other and can go alongside one another.

The environment game is a serious and delicate one. It is not a new hobby or a new fashion, as some of us treat it. We must learn from the experience of the developed countries, for there are still obstacles against government attempts to control the use of the environment. These obstacles are characterised as: inadequacy of information; crudeness of regulatory instruments; problems of enforcement, and lack of public awareness. In spite of the fact that we have many obstacles, pollution control is a worthwhile struggle that we must embrace with all seriousness.

Initiative for the press

DR. ABDUL LATIF Arabiyat, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, was right on the mark yesterday when he blamed journalists, columnists and writers for failing to address adequately the crucial debate that started at the House Sunday over the political parties' law. Are our newspapers and writers busy elsewhere discussing more important issues? We do not think so.

While the debate in the House Sunday centred on two very significant and thought-provoking issues — whether Jordan ought to have parties or not and the definition of a political party per se — most writers in general chose to tackle, in standard rhetoric, issues of less immediate concern to us. The "new world order," the burning of Iraqi crops by flames dropped from the air, the conflict in Yugoslavia, the Israeli elections, all are relevant and interesting issues. But the fact is that our writers and columnists, who in the past campaigned incessantly and persistently for political freedoms, should be more interested in tackling domestic politics than engaging in international battles so far away from home.

We believe that the debate over whether Jordan should or should not have political parties or over the definition of a political party as pertinent to Jordan's democratisation process are more useful to our purposes than discussing other Middle Eastern or international issues at this stage. For unless we put our own house in order we cannot for sure restore order to the rest of the world.

It is indeed astounding for Jordanian newspapers, magazines, and their writers and columnists to engage in grand style rhetoric about shaping the new world order while turning a blind eye to a law, which is about to be passed by Parliament, and which will play an important role in defining not only political work but also press and media directions in the future.

Notwithstanding the state of the Journalists Association, there is the draft law regulating the press profession and its practice in the country, which deserves to be treated as a serious matter that should not be left without journalists saying the final word on it. There are many articles in that law that limit the freedom of expression and that give the censor the authority to decide what should be published or not and even what should be read or not. We do trust that the distinguished members of the House's Law Committee and in turn the people's deputies will do their best to formulate a progressive and balanced law. However, that does not absolve journalists from their own duty to participate fully in shaping a law that touch them the most.

Instead of Speaker Arabiyat urging them to debate the members of the Law Committee on articles of the draft law, journalists should be knocking on the door of the panel day and night to make sure their opinions get heard loudly and clearly.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Tuesday that by involving itself in the question of restoring the Islamic places in Jerusalem without going through the proper Jordanian government committee, Saudi Arabia was tampering with fire. Jordan has informed Saudi Arabia and all other Arab and Muslim nations that they can all contribute to the restoration of the holy shrines in Palestine because this is the duty of all Muslims, but Jordan has also informed these countries that they can do so through the special committee that has been handling this important task over the past five decades, noted the paper. Any attempt on the part of any country, Muslim or otherwise, to transfer the responsibility of the restoration to UNESCO or other organisations, should be regarded as a dangerous game that could be interpreted as a conspiracy against the holy places, the paper argued. Saudi Arabia, which offered funds to UNESCO to restore the shrines without consulting with Jordan, has ignored the fact that the holy city along with the rest of the Palestinian lands is occupied territory, and that the city is the capital of Palestine and not of Israel, the paper stressed. By that move, the Saudis have been fishing in muddy waters and attempting to draw a wedge between Jordan and the Palestinians, but the Saudis should understand that the Jordanian-Palestinian unity is built on a rock that can by no means be shaken through conspiracies or through unholy alliances like that which was created in the Gulf crisis, the paper noted. It said if the Saudis had not wanted to consult with the Jordanians and the special committee on the holy places in Palestine, they ought to have at least consulted with the Palestinians as they are the main concerned party in this affair. It said that the Saudis should have calculated every step in this complicated issue before antagonising other parties.

Wedding parties, which are meant to be a source of joy for the community, are increasingly becoming a real source of disturbance for all because of the behaviour and practices of those involved in the wedding and the loud horns disturbing the peace, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said Tuesday. It has become the custom in Jordan that during weddings large numbers of cars gather to move ahead or in the trail of a bride's car not only blocking the roads and causing further congestions in the streets but also tooting and blowing the horns in a horrible manner, noted Na'ila. He said that this practice, that majesty takes place in the summer, is also copied by the school and university graduates who mount cars waving as they move along and blowing the horns of the cars in a very disturbing manner. The writer said by adopting such practice, those rejoicing over weddings or those expressing their delight over finishing school are indeed tampering with the freedom of others and encroaching on the rights of other people at home or in the streets. Such practice, he continued, is a violation of the rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Interior and the Traffic Police Department, who repeatedly declared their intention to put an end to such uncivilised behaviour, the writer added. The writer appealed to members of the public to respect the country's rules and laws and to the concerned authorities to impose penalties on those trying to violate them in a bid to bring back peace to the silent majority.



Yugoslavia carnage stirs fears of wider Balkan war

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuters

BELGRADE — The unending carnage in Yugoslavia and ethnic quarrels within the borders of the defunct federation have rekindled historical fears that tension in the Balkans could lead to war in Europe.

While the world focuses on Bosnia-Herzegovina, tensions in other potential troublespots in the Balkans are simmering, threatening to draw neighbouring countries and communities with claims to remnants of the fractured peninsula into the fray.

Such fears are rooted in history. "Sharp diplomatic exchanges, bitter newspaper attacks and a radio nerve war between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are reviving some of the hostility which kept the Balkans in an almost constant state of tension between the two world wars."

So began a Reuters despatch from Macedonia in 1958.

Now, 33 years on, there is no war of nerves between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. But there is a war in former Yugoslavia and growing apprehension abroad as the bloodletting continues.

Then, as now, there are fears that unrest in the Balkans — the name has become a byword for intrigue and enmity in the 20th century — could spark a general European war.

Could it happen? Political pundits in Europe and the United States, and some leaders in the region, think so. There is no

shortage of ethnic minorities, disputed territories and old resentments to ignite hostilities.

"Desperate governments can do desperate things," Bulgarian Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov told Reuters at the weekend.

"There is always the possibility that the Serbian government can take measures to make the conflict spread. That would make things unpredictable."

"The situation is dangerous in Yugoslavia, of course, and I cannot rule out the risk of a wider war in the Balkans," said Romanian Defence Minister Nicolae Spiroiu.

Romanian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Theodor Melescau spoke of "a real danger" of a wider war, saying: "A conflict in Macedonia, for instance, could involve Bulgaria and Greece."

Mr. Dimitrov said the world should acknowledge that the problem "is not simply a Balkan crisis but a European, an Atlantic problem."

Both the European Community and the United States have ruled out military intervention for now and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker repeated Washington's position at the weekend.

Nothing was ruled out as long as Sarajevo's "humanitarian nightmare" continued, he said. But those who believed in the possibility of limited action should reread the history of the World War II mountain guerrilla war in Yugoslavia.

In Western Bosnia, recent successes by Croatian and Muslim

fighters in relieving the city of Mostar from a Serb siege led to concern that the Croatia-Serb war could flare up again.

Diplomats in Belgrade said Serbia was probably too worried about the impact of sanctions to contemplate any escalation of fighting.

But there is potential for trouble elsewhere.

Yugoslav Interior Minister Petar Gracanin said last week's announcement of a defence pact between Bosnia and Croatia "could provoke armed conflict" with Serbia.

Albanian President Sali Berisha has joined Hungary in calling for peace-keeping forces to be sent to the Serbian province of Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians form a large majority, and to Vojvodina, home to half a million ethnic Hungarians.

The Bulgarian leader also called for peace-keeping forces to secure the border region between Serbia and Bulgaria.

Bosnia itself wants outright military intervention.

On Sunday, the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug warned in a signed article that Croatia "has not given up its territorial claims to neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina" and planned to realise them "by hook or by crook."

The decision by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to form their own government and police force on Tuesday is likely to be viewed by Belgrade as another provocation.

Argentina chooses to accept U.S. hegemony

Godfrey Jansen looks at the reasons behind Argentina's formal withdrawal from the Non-Aligned Movement.

THE Non-Aligned Movement in the past month has had an unusual experience — the formal withdrawal from the movement of one of its members — Argentina. This is not the first time there has been a withdrawal. Burma, one of the founder-members, did so in 1979 when a non-aligned summit was held in Havana. But the two withdrawals are very different in quality.

Burma pulled out because it believed, rightly, that by holding its summit conference in the capital of a loyal member of the communist bloc and conferring on communist Cuba the leadership of NAM for three years, the movement had departed from its independent position towards the two blocs. Argentina's withdrawal is based on the usual ignorant misinterpretation of what non-alignment means, that is not independence of, but neutrality between the blocs. So since there is now only one superpower NAM, in the words of Argentina's foreign minister, "now represents a world that has ended."

The country that so misunderstands the basis of NAM: even after being a member of it since 1973, is better outside than within its ranks. But that is not Argentina's real reason for leaving NAM. The reason is that it wants to placate the One World Power (OWP), the U.S., knowing that the OWP has never liked NAM and is going to like it even less as NAM emerges as the main bulwark of the small countries joining together against America's hegemonic bullying.

If Argentina was admitted to NAM it was because, under the influence of the ideas behind the Peronist semi-fascist dictatorship, its policies were populist and nationalist and therefore anti-American. The present Argentine president, Carlos Menem, was elected on a pro-Peronist populist programme but he abandoned it and reversed it once he was elected. That shift was manifested symbolically when Argentina became the only South American country to contribute to the U.S.-led coalition of "Desert Shield," albeit its naval vessels were in a non-combat role. Argentina's change of policy could be due to the fact that during its 1982 war with Britain over the Falklands, it found itself isolated in South America except for Cuba, as also at the U.N. and that the intelligence supplied to Britain by the U.S. contributed significantly to Argentina's humiliating defeat.

Proof that Argentina under

Menem has completely accepted U.S. leadership is to be seen in its full compliance with the U.S. policy of making South America a nuclear-free zone — it has cut back and put curbs on its well-established nuclear power programme. Also, in the reversal of its hitherto pro-Arab anti-Israel policy on the Middle East. This is all the more striking because Mr. Menem is by origin a Syrian Muslim: he has visited Israel and even offered to mediate in the Arab-Israeli confrontation. His wife, however, remained true to her Syrian Muslim origins and that was a contributory factor in a noisily contested divorce. Mr. Menem describes these changes as Argentina becoming "a trustworthy member of the international community."

It would be no bad thing for NAM if all those many NAM members who think the same way as Argentina followed its honest example and left it. If NAM instead of a membership of 104 countries became a lean, stripped-down group of 44 or 34, it would be that much more effective: more effective, that is in standing up to the U.S.

Within NAM there are now three groups on that issue. There are those, like Argentina, who are willingly subservient to the OWP; also including Egypt, Indonesia and Cyprus. There are those who are unwillingly subservient and increasingly assertive of their independence, such as India, Yemen, Palestine, Algeria and Zimbabwe. And then there is the small confrontational group of Cuba, Iran, Iraq and Libya.

A convincing reason for moving away from subservience is that, if conceded, it has to be open-ended and total or else it does not achieve its goal of American approval and financial support. Both India and China, as members of the Security Council, wanted against Iraq in 1990-1991, and against Libya in 1992 yet India is now being threatened by the U.S. over patents and missiles and China is being threatened by the U.S. Congress with withdrawal of its Most Favoured Nation trading status over its human rights record. For the U.S. any other country can never be subservient enough.

An ironic, and almost sad, circumstance is that perhaps subservience to the U.S. is becoming out of date and is no longer necessary because the power and status of the One World Power is showing distinct signs of crumbling. Nowhere has this been more

evident than at the Rio world summit where the Europeans, including even Britain, abandoned the intransigent U.S. and decided to sign the two key conventions; Japan, conspicuously showed up U.S. rigidity by talking of a seven billion fund for environmental protection; and the U.S. itself, most unwisely, has identified Japan and Germany as being particularly inimical to it; perhaps they are (Japan chose the time of the summit to announce that the U.S. was the country most discriminatory in its trade practices) but it is surely unwise and bad tactics to point out one's opponents. Probably the most conspicuous sign of the decline in power, and the loss of the aura of power, certainly the unkindest cut of all, was when that wretched principality Kuwait stated that it had not been liberated by the U.S., but its Arab neighbours and by Egypt and Syria, whose troops took either a minimal role or did nothing in the Gulf war. Something contradicting himself, the Kuwaiti spokesman went on to say that what the U.S. had done was not done to help Kuwait regain its freedom, but to serve America's own interests. That fact was obvious from the very start of "Desert Shield" but it's ungrateful for the rescued to point this out to its rescuer.

This crumbling of the leadership-position of the One World Power could be a passing phase, merely a reflection of George Bush's miserable performance in the election campaign. But even if there is a recovery after the election, under whoever the new president may be, the U.S. is never again going to be an unchallenged leader because it has been served notice, repeatedly and in public during the last few months, that even its friends and allies are not going to put up with its bullying and its hectoring manner. And any show of independence can only be to the advantage of NAM.

In the long run, in retrospect, the NAM countries could yet be grateful to the U.S. for revealing very early in the existence of the New World Order that is order of the day on a whole range of issues — arms proliferation, trade practices, even human rights and so on, is this: "Do as I tell you — and do it quickly and without question — but don't do as I do." Because it is this peremptory hypocrisy that scared countries into seeking self-protection in the safety of numbers within NAM.

G.H. Jansen is author of 'Afro-Asia and Non-Alignment.' He attended the Belgrade conference of 1961 and most of the subsequent Non-Aligned summits.

Russians flock to Israeli collective farms

By Miriam Jordan
Reuters

GVAR AMM, ISRAEL — Russia of the Soviet kolhoz — a rush for Israeli capitalism are queuing up for jobs on the collective farm, hoping to dig their way to success in the land of milk and honey.

Doctors, scientists and engineers say they prefer to work the land or the local factory assembly line on the Israeli kibbutz than join the ranks of educated immigrants sweeping Israel's streets in order to survive.

"This is paradise. We have medical services, insurance, no tax hassles. We have everything," said Micha Modelevsky, who settled on kibbutz Gvar Amm with

his family 18 months ago.

"The word socialism scares us. It drives shivers up our spines. There are elements of socialism on kibbutz, but also of capitalism. We've been happy since the day we set foot here," the 31-year-old Muscovite told Reuters.

A year ago, most newcomers rejected the kibbutz even as a temporary stop on the way to an Israeli city. It conjured up images of the Soviet kolk — a grim, state-controlled farm where peasants lived in poverty.

These days so many newcomers from the Commonwealth of Independent States want to join kibbutzim they cannot all be accommodated because of a shortage of houses and school places.

Of the 400,000 immigrants who

have arrived in Israel since 1989 about 11,000 have found a place on a collective farm. Most of the newcomers are struggling to make ends meet in Israeli cities. In some areas only half find jobs.

About 124,000 Israelis live on kibbutzim but the pioneer spirit on which the Jewish state was built has been wearing thin among youngsters for the past decade. Immigrants are snapping up the places of dropouts.

"Immigration to Israel has fallen dramatically, but applications to kibbutzim have not," said Gershon Kastel, head of the kibbutz movement's Immigrant Absorption Programme.

"A barrier has been broken. Initial, negative ideas about the kibbutz have been dispelled. New

arrivals are writing back home to tell family and friends to try a kibbutz on immigrating," he said.

Collective settlements boast a standard of living beyond the reach of most immigrants in Israeli cities — financial security, good schools and comfortable housing, plus countryside fresh air and quiet.

The flood of Jews from the former Soviet Union has piled increasing pressure on Israel's shaky economy. Word travels fast and this year has seen a sharp drop in arrivals — from 30,000 in peak months last year to about 5,000 in May.

But life is looking rosy for immigrants who win a place in the kibbutz after a trial period of up to six months during which they

learn Hebrew.

"Our daughter is so happy here. She was yellow and thin in Russia. Here she is a flower blooming," said Lala Modelevsky, brandishing a ballet award won by 10-year-old Julia.

"We couldn't give her this quality of life in the city."

The Modelevskys and 10 other Russian families at Gvar Amm live in two-bedroom houses with manicured gardens. There is more space and privacy than they dreamed of having in Moscow. The couple miss city cultural life but vow they will never trade the leafy, pastoral kibbutz of 340 people in the southern plains for polluted, overcrowded Tel Aviv. Modelevsky, an oil geologist, obtained a research job at Tel

Aviv University with help from the kibbutz. But he still works on the box assembly line at Gvar Amm's paper factory for three days a week.

His earnings are ploughed back into the settlement's coffers to be handed out as fixed living allowances and to pay for the community's needs.

But for Modelevsky, the big prize is being able to continue working in his chosen career. "Most Jews in Russia are city dwellers and not used to living with nature," Modelevsky said. "They don't know what a kibbutz is. For them it's a kolhoz. They think all the work is in cowsheds or fields doing what we called black work in Russia."

Exit poll predicts Labour win

(Continued from page 1)

The result was far more in Labour's favour than most pre-election surveys had indicated.

Industry Minister Moshe Nisim of Likud said on television: "If it turns out to be true, then it is true the Likud will not form the next government."

Pollster Hanech Smith, commenting on army radio, warned that the poll could be flawed because television closed its 54 sample ballot boxes two hours before polling stations shut at 10 p.m. (1900 GMT).

"In general, the more religious, and the supporters of the right, will vote later in the day," he said.

Television said its poll encompassed 30,000 voters, just under one per cent of the electorate.

Labour Secretary General Michael Harish said: "I think we are facing now, after 15 years, a new era in Israeli democracy."

Yossi Sarid of Meretz said the

poll showed a "blocking majority" for Labour to prevent Likud forming a government. "It is clear these are wonderful results," he said on Israel radio.

If the exit poll is correct, Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin should have little difficulty forming a coalition, since he would need only one of the religious parties to join him.

The poll projected two seats each for two Arab parties. It also projected a tripling to six seats for the hardline Tzomet party led by Raphael Eytan, a retired general. Tzomet served in Mr. Shamir's coalition.

It predicted the far-right Molechet party rising from two seats to three, and no seats for another ex-Shamir partner, Tehiya.

It forecast the weakening of the religious parties. United Torah dropped from seven to four, Shas from six to five, while the National Religious Party held its five seats in the sampling.

Arabiyyat: U.N. inspectors unacceptable

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq while Turkey, Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia were being spared, why station observers in Jordanian territory instead of Iraqi soil where the enforcement of sanctions could be more effective, and whether the process would end at stationing of observers at Aqaba or lead to a series of further demands.

A cabinet minister told the Jordan Times Tuesday that it was extremely difficult for Jordan to accept the proposal since it would not only violate the Kingdom's sovereignty but would also give a weapon to opposition to criticise the government.

Furthermore, added the minister, the implementation of the proposal is a "complicated business that could lead to further complications all the time."

"Suppose we did accept to place U.N. observers at Aqaba to inspect all incoming cargo," said the minister. "Afterwards the day will come when demand will be placed on us to station them on the border crossing points with Iraq, then all along the border and then what?"

According to another official, "Jordan is trying its best to enforce the sanctions and each and every concerned department is under strict orders to abide by the procedures related to all Iraq-bound consignments in consultation with the U.N. sanctions committee."

"There could be smuggling across Jordan's borders — which applies not only to Iraq but also Syria and Saudi Arabia — but of a very insignificant level," particularly after patrols have been increased," added the official. "In any event, which country in the

world can boast itself of being one hundred per cent smuggle-proof?"

Charges that Jordan is party to "large-scale smuggling of goods in violation of the sanctions" have come in a series of reports in the American press and the allegations are seen as mainly propagated by Iraqi dissident groups and the Arab allies in the American-led anti-Iraq coalition.

"Very conveniently, those who accuse Jordan of sanction-busting appear to overlook the clandestine cargo traffic across the borders from Syria, Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia," asked one source.

"Where would military hardware, very difficult to conceal, come from when all goods coming to Jordan are closely inspected by the American navy?" asked the source referring to reports that Iraq was getting such items.

According to shipping sources, many products, including food and beverages, made in Europe, the Gulf Arab countries and the United States are seen plentiful in the Iraqi market while there is no record of such items passing through Jordanian territory. "There is no need for any smuggling of food products since they are exempt from Article 20 of Resolution 687 and so if they pass through Jordan they would definitely be recorded," noted a source.

In the absence of such records, the source pointed out, "the conclusion cannot be but that these products reached the Iraqi market through borders other than Jordanian. And if such products could reach Iraq through such channels, isn't it also a certainty that the items that they say are in violation of the sanctions reach Iraq through the same means?"

House speaker criticises press

(Continued from page 1)

Also distributed at the press conference were two documents listing the House's accomplishments during its last (third) regular session between Dec. 1, 1991, and March 31, 1992.

Dr. Arabiyat said according to the Constitution the government

is required to draft a law prohibiting alcohol during the House's next session in October.

In its regular session, the House voted by majority requiring the government to draft a law banning the manufacture, import, sale and consumption of alcohol.

Libya says suspects could be tried

(Continued from page 1)

rupted and heckled, the reports said. Chaos ensued and green plastic name plates went flying round the hall.

The fact that the decision concerning the suspects makes no mention of where the trial would be held might leave the door open for reaching a face-saving solution acceptable to both the West and Libya.

Libya however has previously said it would accept a "fair trial"

but insisted that the U.S. and Britain would not qualify for a fair court.

This is believed to be a general framework with details to be worked out later, especially because it did not reject outright Britain or the United States as a place for trial.

Libya has given mixed signals however since the start of the crisis while constantly claiming courts in the United States and Britain were unjust and allied to their countries' intelligence.

U.S. to tighten Yugoslavia sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

control agreements with the former Soviet Union clearly indicated they would go into effect. The intent of the new sanctions was to make clear our outrage and further demonstrate our conviction that the governments of Serbia and Montenegro cannot

be members of the civilized community of nations," Mr. Baker said.

He said the United States would no longer accept representation from Belgrade at ambassadorial level a step short of a break in diplomatic relations.

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Scanning the earth to forecast the future

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Up on the second floor of one of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture (FAO) buildings, a 3-metre wide dish looks at a satellite 36,000 kilometres up in space, and finds out whether it is raining in Djibouti or Harare. The satellite is the European-owned Meteosat, which sends back hourly detailed information on weather conditions over the entire 30 million square kilometres of the African continent.

Meanwhile, another satellite, the U.S.-owned NOAA, is also beaming regular bulletins to the FAO receiver, to give a breakdown on vegetation growth and changes over Africa, the Near East and South West Asia. Together, the two sources will enable FAO experts to build up a detailed picture of areas at risk of drought, food crises and other disasters, such as locust plagues.

Now, thanks to a joint project between the FAO and the European Space Agency (ESA), that vital information will be passed to the places where it is most needed in a matter of minutes. The DIANA (Direct Information Access Network for Africa) system, due to go into operation in June, will give African countries and early warning system about trouble that is heading their way.

The system will be extended to other parts of the world, including the Middle East and Asia, if the year-long African experiment proves successful. "The idea is to keep a step ahead of drought, crop failures and famine," said Jelle Hielkema, senior remote sensing officer at the FAO, a key figure in the new project.

The FAO link-up with the Meteosat and NOAA satellites has already revolutionised assessments of weather and vegetation in the four years it has been in use. Started in 1988, with help from the National Aeronautics Space Agency (NASA), the National Aerospace Laboratory of the Netherlands and the British universities of Reading and Bristol, the system, known as ARTEMIS, monitors a substantial area of the developing world and passes its findings back to the FAO.

In the Rome offices, the information is stored on a computer linked to terminals which can provide constantly updated images and data on temperatures and rainclouds in the African continent, and the vegetation situation in Africa and the area eastwards, as far as Thailand. "It can also tell us how much it is raining, where it is raining and where it is not, so you can pinpoint drought areas and make forecasts," said Mr. Hielkema. "From the vegetation data, you can make all sorts of calculations, such as forecasts about crops and predicting the growing season."

Until now, the weak point was the slowness in getting that information out to the countries most affected, to enable governments to take swift action to head off a crisis. Previously, FAO officials were forced to rely on the mail, erratic telephone systems, the diplomatic pouch and, in cases of a red alert, the telex machine. Now, with the DIANA system, detailed and constant monitoring will be beamed to the African continent almost instantaneously. "Once DIANA comes into effect the time will be reduced to a few minutes," said Mr. Hielkema. Three receiving stations — in Accra, Nairobi and Harare — will be linked to the FAO by the ESA's Intelsat IV satellite, which is poised over the Indian Ocean.

Each African centre will be equipped with a satellite dish, enabling it to receive a steady flow of information beamed from Rome via Intelsat in the form of high resolution photographs and images, documents, maps and text. The African receiving stations, manned by staff trained to interpret the information, will be hooked up to the Rome database night and day, receiving constant updates. Retrieving the information will be a matter of calling it up on a personal computer or getting a print-out for a hard copy.

"From these three centres, the information will be sent out to the regional and national early warning systems of the various countries," said Mr. Hielkema, a Dutch scientist who has spent much of his career studying environmental monitoring via satellites. "They can then tell the governments: 'You had better get the food aid mechanism into gear or we will have problems there and there,'" he added. "That's the nice thing about this system. It can point to trouble spots in very specific places."

Satellite technology could save millions of dollars in crops lost to floods and locust plagues, and millions of lives lost through famine caused by drought, say development officials. Mr. Hielkema points to the current drought sweeping southern Africa and now spreading to the east of the continent. Monitoring via satellite is proving useful in checking its progress and issuing warnings to the next areas likely to be in its path, he said.

"We cannot say: 'There will be a drought next year,'" Mr. Hielkema explained. "For that we will need new technology, which could take another 10 years to develop. These systems can't forecast in the sense of weather forecasting, but they can forecast what the harvest will or will not be in three to four months from now — and as we build up data banks we will get a better feel for it. We have confidence that we will move into quality crop fore-

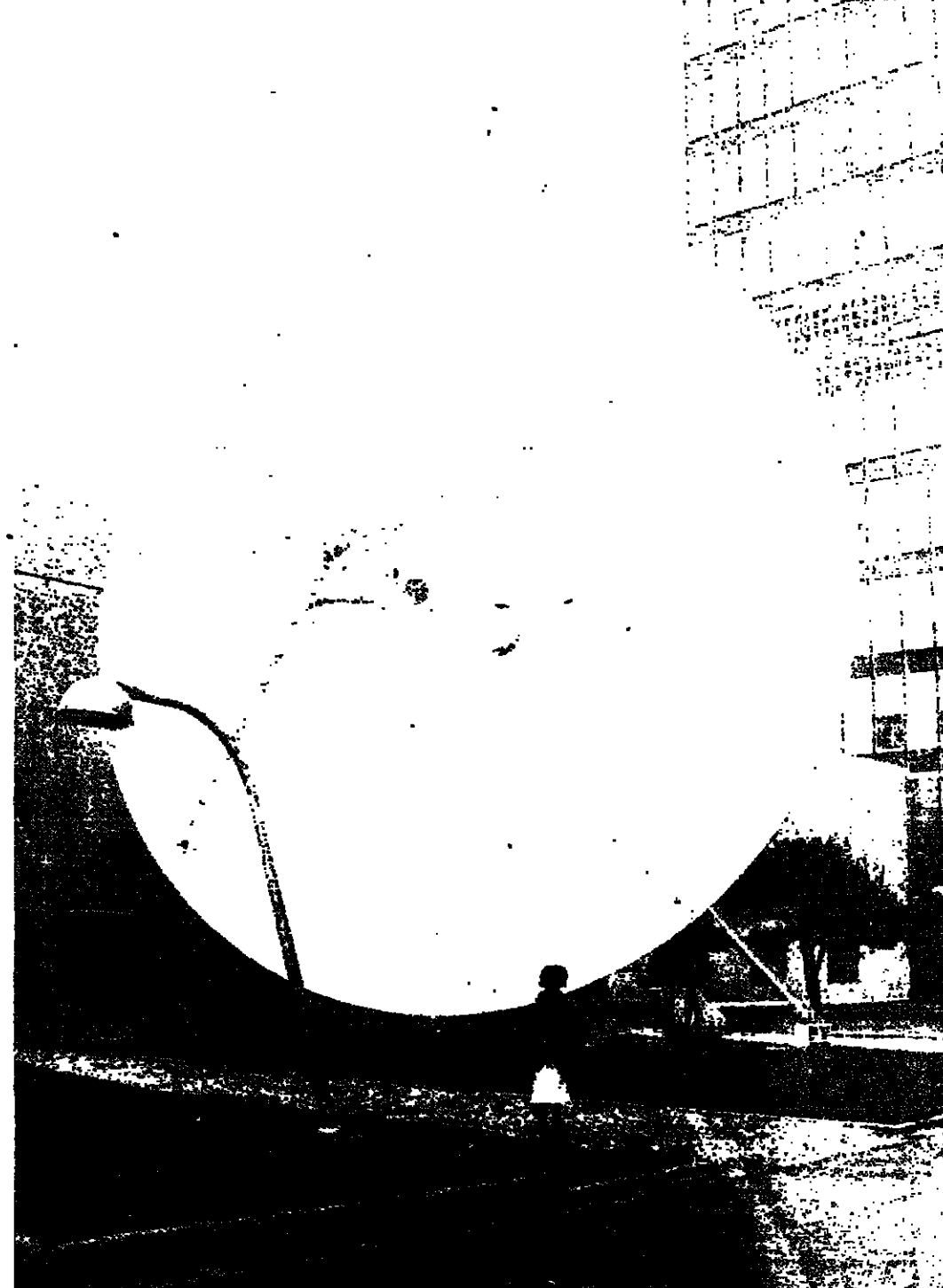
casting in the next few years."

As he talks, Mr. Hielkema holds up a satellite map showing rainfall patterns in southern Africa. The whole area shows up in ominous red, a sign that it has not rained for months. "The harvest has totally failed. They have to find 15 million tonnes of maize from somewhere in the world, and with the Russians taking a lot (of world supplies), that will be a big problem," he said. A map showing Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda reveals a less grave, but nevertheless alarming picture. "It is now spreading to eastern Africa," said Mr. Hielkema. "There is very little rain there. It is extremely serious."

As the system develops, says Mr. Hielkema, the FAO will be able to send its African receiving stations more detailed information about crop-growing conditions, as well as other valuable data on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Once other satellites begin co-operating with the U.N. agency, the system will be extended to other parts of the world. The FAO has made an agreement to use the Japanese GMS satellite to glean information about Asia. "The Chinese government has also asked the FAO to adapt ARTEMIS for Asia, though that will be a long-term thing," said Mr. Hielkema.

Locust plague prediction will be made far easier with the satellite forecasters. Many development officials now accept that the catastrophic plague of 1986 to 1988, which affected large parts of Africa and the Near East, could have been halted or at least mitigated had a remote warning system been in place. The swarms swept through Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Horn of Africa and beyond, leaving a trail of destruction and famine in their wake. In Ethiopia alone, the locusts destroyed enough food for a million people.

Now, by examining information on rainfall and vegetation beamed from the satellites Meteosat and NOAA, scientists can predict exactly where locusts might start breeding, and organise spraying before the insects start to multiply and spread. "Locusts breed in conditions of heavy moisture and they need vegetation to develop and mature, so studies of these factors can give a red alert," said Mr. Hielkema. "If you can define the areas where locusts are likely to breed, you can send out teams to control them as a preventative measure, before they build up generations and start swarming." The area most at risk from locust plagues is a vast belt of 16 million square kilometres stretching from the African coast, across the Arabian Peninsula to northwest India. The launch of the DIANA system, one of the most sophisticated of its kind, comes halfway



Using satellite dishes, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) are cooperating to forecast areas at risk of drought or locust plagues (World News Link photo).

through International Space Year, amid a growing move on the part of the space industry to use research for mankind as well as for more far-flung projects. "There is an increasing movement by the space agencies to look back at the Earth; we have a lot of problems here," said Mr. Hielkema. "Space can be beneficial to mankind. It's not only going to Mars and the Moon."

With prices of satellite technology coming down, and the accuracy and range improving all the time, the use of satellites will become increasingly important in predicting natural disasters, especially in the Third World, development officials agree. "The price of installing satellite receiving systems is very low," said Mr. Hielkema. "Running costs can be almost negligible." The DIANA project will cost \$8 million to get under way, most of it provided by the European Space Agency's members states — Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and the U.K. The ARTEMIS system has cost a total of about \$5.5 million, including operating costs for the past four years.

One negative spinoff from the rush to use satellites is the overcrowding it has caused in the

geostationary orbit — the only orbit where satellites can remain fixed in one place, without circling the Earth. Thousands of satellites monitoring everything from the weather to military installations have been launched into this orbit over the past two decades, and space is running out. "There is a lot of international dispute about who should be able to send satellites up because there are about 10,000 up there now, and it's getting very crowded," said Mr. Hielkema. "There's even talk of sending up a hovering mission to get the defunct satellites out of space" — World News Link.

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U.N. general says no hope of early Sarajevo ceasefire

LONDON (R) — General Lewis Mackenzie, the United Nations' chief peacekeeping negotiator in Sarajevo, said Tuesday hopes for a 48-hour truce to reopen the city's airport were over.

"I think it is time to stop the watch. The 48 hours is a bit of a joke now," Gen. Mackenzie told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio by telephone from the Bosnian capital.

"The watch is having to be reset every two or three minutes."

Early morning gunfire was reported in Sarajevo following a mortar attack Monday that killed 19 civilians and wounded 87 when they came out of shelters during a lull in fighting.

Gen. Mackenzie, chief negotiator of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), said Monday's carnage had probably put paid to any chance of a truce in the next few days.

"Quite frankly, considering the scale of the incident yesterday there is going to be an extremely understandable and irrational reaction," he said.

"Our job is to sit here and wait for a window of opportunity. I

would say it probably slammed shut for a while yesterday."

U.N. peacekeepers had won an agreement from Serb forces surrounding the city to take control of the airport to fly in aid.

Gen. Mackenzie said a 48-hour truce was a reasonable request to make when unarmed peacekeepers were expected to supervise forces in the surrounding hills.

"With heavy exchanges there is no way that is a practical undertaking at this time," he told the BBC.

The Serbs, a 31 per cent minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina's 4.3 million population, have taken control of two-thirds of the newly-independent state and surrounded Sarajevo in a rebellion against its secession from Yugoslavia.

Serb paramilitary forces besieging Sarajevo opened fire with tanks and artillery overnight but the Bosnian capital was calm except for sporadic shooting Tuesday morning.

Radio Sarajevo said the forces which have besieged the Bosnian capital for more than two months shelled the city centre and

opened fire with tanks and artillery on the disputed Dobrinja district Monday night.

Serbian television said the mainly Muslim and Croat forces defending the city launched artillery attacks on Serb positions but they were easily repelled.

The television said only sporadic gunfire could be heard by morning but the city was tense after a mortar attack killed 19 civilians and wounded 87 Monday when they came out of shelters during a lull in fighting.

About 300,000 people are trapped in Sarajevo with little food, water or power. A U.N. plan to open the Serb-held airport and fly in aid has been held up by the relentless bloodshed.

"There was fighting after midnight but it is quiet now. I can hear no shooting," Sarajevo Radio journalist Ivan Krijstic said by telephone.

But he added: "There is a status quo but there is no ceasefire. The shooting continues in Dobrinja every day and at the airport, so the U.N. forces can't do anything."

United Nations peacekeeping forces have won an agreement from the Serbs to take control of

the airport and fly in aid. But they want peace to hold for two days before they go ahead with the operation.

Fighting has raged across the new state against mainly Muslim and Croat units who support independence, approved by some 60 per cent of the population in a referendum in March.

The 10 mortar rounds which crashed into the city centre Monday, shattering a lull in fighting that had brought civilians out of cellars and into the streets, provided the latest horror and blow to peace hopes.

The attack was widely blamed on Serb forces.

The death toll, which included small children, reached 19 as injured victims succumbed to their wounds, Sarajevo Radio said, quoting sources at the city's four functioning hospitals.

27 people were reported killed and 163 wounded in clashes throughout the mountainous republic Monday.

In Washington, U.S. Republican Senator Robert Dole said Monday that NATO should send an ultimatum to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

At least 300 killed in savage Moldova fighting

TIRASPOL, Moldova (R) — At least 300 people have been killed in three days of fighting between Moldovan forces and Guardsmen of the breakaway Dnestr Republic, officials in the regional capital Tiraspol said Tuesday.

294 corpses — Guardsmen, Russian Cossacks and civilians — were counted in the town morgue at Tiraspol and seven in a military hospital. Reporters also saw about 500 injured people.

Dnestr officials said the casualties were brought there from Bender, 10 kilometres away across the Dniester in the eastern part of the former Soviet republic bordering Romania.

The separatist leadership, quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency, said 1,000 people had been killed or injured during the night alone. Thousands of refugees were streaming out of the battered and burning town, it said.

Since last Friday Bender has been the focus of fighting between the Moldovan government and the rebels, a mixture of Slav nationalists and former Communists.

The town, the only separatist stronghold west of the river, changed hands twice at the weekend.

A ceasefire agreed Monday night collapsed after less than five hours. Gunbattles broke out on and near the Dniester Bridge early Tuesday and Moldovan guns resumed their shelling of the town.

The stretch of rotting bodies hung over the town of 140,000 people. Residents began burying the dead where they lay.

Mayor Vyacheslav Kolgut and other Bender city leaders sheltered in cellars beneath the town hall Monday evening as shells crashed onto the city centre.

The ceasefire came into effect at 10:30 p.m. following telephone conversations between Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Romania's Ion Iliescu and Moldovan Mircea Snegur.

The rebellion is led by the Russian and Ukrainian minority which has proclaimed its own separate republic in eastern Moldova. Its leaders say they want to avoid being swept by the ethnic Romanian majority into union with Romania.

Mr. Snegur told parliament in Kishinyov Monday that the former Soviet republic has effectively at war with Russia.

Last weekend Mr. Yeltsin said Moscow was prepared to defend the lives of Russians from ethnic strife in other former Soviet republics.

Deputy foreign ministers of Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Romania met in Kishinyov Monday to discuss the worsening crisis, TASS said. More talks were expected in Istanbul later in the week as part of a meeting of Black Sea area states.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk proposed special autonomous status for the Dnestr Region inside Moldova, with a right of secession should Moldova's Romanian majority unite with its ethnic neighbour.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, published in Kishinyov newspapers Tuesday, Mr. Snegur reiterated charges that the ex-Soviet 14th Army was intervening on the side of the separatists.

Russia, Ukraine agree on Black Sea Fleet

DAGOMYS, Russia (R) — Russia and Ukraine reached agreement Tuesday on dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, one of the main disputes between the two former Soviet states, a senior Ukrainian official said.

"We have reached an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet," Yevgeny Marchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian National Security Service, told Reuters.

He was speaking during a Russian-Ukrainian summit in the Black Sea resort of Dagomys. Journalists attending the summit quoted Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, as saying part of the 380-ship fleet would be split between Russia and Ukraine.

The rest would come under joint Russian-Ukrainian Strategic Command, he said.

No further details were immediately available.

The Black Sea Fleet, based in the Crimea, has been a source of disagreement between the two countries since the fortification of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) last December.

An hour of one-to-one talks between Mr. Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters.

"An agreement has been reached to prepare a military and political agreement between Rus-

sia and Ukraine. The desire of both sides for a compromise is felt," he said.

"Those who expected that Russia and Ukraine would quarrel, can pack their bags. We will have information for those who believed in a constructive dialogue."

The meeting is taking in a hotel in the exclusive southern Black Sea resort of Dagomys. Holidaymakers outside the building watched curiously through a glass panel separating a beach from the building where the meeting was held.

The summit is taking place amidst deep suspicion and doubts about the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which replaced the Soviet Union last year.

Many Ukrainians feel Russia wants to dominate the new Commonwealth as it did the old Soviet Union. Russians suspect Ukraine is only paying lip-service to the 11-state body.

Ukraine plans to abandon the rouble later this year and introduce its own currency, to be called the Grivna. Russia accuses the country of ignoring joint interests.

Ukrainian Economics Minister Vladimir Lanovoi said the two sides came to an agreement on gradual introduction of the Grivna before the end of the year but there still were difficulties in agreeing on mutual payments.

U.N. considers missions for Karabakh, Moldova

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations has announced it was considering sending military observers to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and would open offices in the capitals of Armenia and Azerbaijan immediately.

A U.N. spokesman also said Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was considering sending a fact-finding mission to Moldova, the former Soviet republic where fighting has intensified between Slav separatists and the ethnic Romanian authorities.

Speaking to reporters about Nagorno-Karabakh, Security Council President Paul Hain said the Security Council will decide to send observers.

About 2,000 people have been killed in the past four years of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave populated mostly by Armenians but placed under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction in 1923.

Both sides have launched offensives in recent weeks to try to claim chunks of territory in the

enclave.

Mr. Noterdaeme said the sending of observers would depend on progress made at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which suspended talks in Rome until June 29 after a deadlock Saturday.

But a confidential report from U.N. envoy Frances Vendrell, who visited the region at the end of May, said Armenia wanted U.N. troops, not lightly-armed observers.

Sending observers "would merely enable Azerbaijan to re-arm, create a pretext for calling for the withdrawal of the observers and launch a full-scale attack on the enclave," he said in the report obtained by Reuters.

Mr. Noterdaeme said the United Nations would open offices in Azerbaijan and Armenia as soon as possible to study the conflict and find ways of channeling humanitarian aid.

On Moldova, a U.N. spokesman said Dr. Ghali was "consulting with the parties about the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the area."

Ramos thanks electorate

MANILA (AP) — President-Elect Fidel Ramos promised Tuesday that his government will defend "the poor and powerless" and said his election showed the world that the Philippines is committed to democracy.

The 64-year-old West Point graduate was proclaimed by Congress Monday as the winner of the May 11 election. Gen. Ramos will take office June 30 to succeed President Corason Aquino, who supported his campaign.

"I accept our peoples' mandate as the duly elected president of our republic," Gen. Ramos said in a statement. "By this official proclamation... Filipinos have proven to the entire world our abiding commitment and strict adherence to the democratic ideal."

"My administration will be

open to all men and women of goodwill who believe in the cause of good government and, above all, the effective empowerment of our countrymen, especially those who are poor and powerless."

On Monday, Gen. Ramos said he would lead trade missions to Japan and other South East Asian countries to encourage investments to revive the stagnant Philippine economy. Unemployment stands at 13 per cent and less than two-thirds of the labour force works a full 40-hour week.

On Tuesday, Gen. Ramos met with Mrs. Aquino to discuss the transition. The Philippines has not had a peaceful transfer of power since the 1965 election of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in the 1986 uprising that installed Mrs. Aquino.

French farmers, police clash in Paris

ECUBLE, France (R) — French farmers clashed with police early Tuesday when they threw road blocks around Paris and launched a military-style, pre-dawn operation to press demands for the repeal of European Community (EC) farm reforms.

Six policemen and a farmer were hurt in the clashes. Organisers claimed they had set up about 20 roadblocks on main roads and motorways 50 kilometres from the capital.

The Interior Ministry said most were dismantled by riot police and only four main roads were still cut off as motorists started driving towards Paris in the morning rush hour.

A ministry spokesman said six policemen were slightly injured when farmers drove their tractors through a police line at Abilis, south of Paris.

The organisers, the radical Rural Coordination, said a farmer was slightly hurt in the incident.

The group, mounting the Paris siege from Ecuble, a tiny village 80 kilometres southwest of the capital, say their protest is the last resort of an agricultural class staring financial ruin in the face.

"It would be mad for us not to act. We have to behave like people fighting a bush fire, every-one lending a hand with a bucket," said Jacques Laigneau, the 58-year-old president of the Rural Coordination.

The farmers' protest came as the country's politicians prepared for a grand parliament session at the Versailles Palace to vote on constitutional reforms needed to bring France into line with the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

HOUSTON (AP) — Black Democratic mayors, overshadowed by Jesse Jackson in the past, are turning away from Rev. Jackson's complaints about Bill Clinton in favour of pushing the presidential candidate's domestic economic programme.

Rev. Jackson, the two-time unsuccessful presidential candidate, was speaking Tuesday to the U.S. conference of Mayors, a day after Mr. Clinton won praise when he outlined his economic programme that promises \$20 billion a year for roads, bridges and other public works projects that cities are seeking.

"The way Bill Clinton has laid out is the call to America to say there's hope for you, and opportunity," said Seattle's Norm Rice, a black mayor of an overwhelmingly white city.

Sharpe James, the black mayor of Newark, New Jersey, pledged to work to turn out his city's vote for Mr. Clinton. "We have a man with a vision for a better America," he said.

Another black mayor, Atlanta's Maynard Jackson, who has been a strong Clinton supporter, said Mr. Clinton's economic programme draws a stark contrast between the Arkansas governor and his rivals, President George Bush and independent Ross Perot.

"Bush does not care. Perot does not know," Mr. Jackson said. "But Clinton has got his eye on the future of America."

White Democratic mayors praised Mr. Clinton as well, including Boston Mayor Ray



The head of UNTAC Yasushi Akashi (left) and the U.N. military commander, Lt. Gen. John Sanderson, visit a Cambodian site as the Cambodian peace process gets off to a shaky start with the Khmer Rouge boycotting the demobilisation effort.

Cambodia to discuss Khmer Rouge crisis

TOKYO (R) — Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) will meet next week to make a last minute effort to salvage the Paris peace accord and avert sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, a French official said Tuesday.

French Deputy Foreign Minister Georges Kiejman told reporters in Tokyo that the July 2 meeting was set Monday evening when the four Cambodian factions met to try to resolve the deadlock over the nation's peace process.

Mr. Kiejman, who sat in on the late-night talks, said there was still some room for hope that the communist Khmer Rouge would back down from a hardline stance which was impeding the full implementation of the Paris agreement.

He said, however, that international sanctions might have to be considered if the July meeting, to be held in Phnom Penh, failed to draw out a positive response.

"If the Khmer Rouge continue to block peace moves, then the U.N. would be forced to take proper measures," he said.

"Such a move would take the form of a warning, perhaps even of gradual sanctions."

Mr. Kiejman said France hoped that such extreme measures would not be needed.

Earlier Monday, Kiejman and representatives from 32 other nations held round up the Tokyo ministerial conference on rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia and pledged to provide \$80 million to help the South East nation rise above the ruins of two decades of war.

The delegates expressed serious concern over the attitude of the Communist guerrillas, but voiced firm support for the U.N.-brokered peace process and promised to fulfil commitments already made to the war-battered nation's recovery.

Despite efforts by chief United Nations peacekeeper Yasushi Akashi to meet some of the Khmer Rouge objections to the way the Paris accords are being implemented, the Tokyo meeting failed to elicit any flexibility from nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan.

The white-haired guerrilla spokesman sat silent and expressionless throughout a long day of discussing during which speaker after speaker uttered thinly-veiled condemnations of the Khmer Rouge position, which has thrown the future of the October 1991 peace accords into question.

The Paris agreement requires troops of all four Cambodian factions to be disarmed and U.N. personnel to have free access to zones under their control. The peace plan provides for free elections early next year.

The Khmer Rouge has refused to take part in the crucial second phase — the cantonment and disarmament of the rival armies, which began on June 13.

Mr. Kiejman said Monday's late-night talks were hastily convened in an attempt to hammer out the issue with Khieu Samphan.

As well as the four Cambodian factions, the session was attended by Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), representatives of

the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Japan, the host nation.

Australia and Indonesia, who both played a leading role in negotiating the peace agreement, were also present.

After several hours of often heated debate, however, the negotiators failed to win a pledge from Khieu Samphan that his men would lay down their arms and abide by the Paris accord.

Mr. Kiejman said.

They had to be content with issuing a statement calling on the Paris accord to be followed.

Mr. Kiejman said the July 2 meeting would be co-chaired by Mr. Akashi and Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nation's former king.

The French envoy said that if international sanctions became necessary, they could take the form of increased surveillance along the Thai-Cambodian border where large areas are under Communist guerrilla control.

The French official said Thai authorities had indicated they would comply with such measures if it were called for.

At a separate Tokyo news conference, Thai Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin was asked to comment on allegations that Bangkok's assistance to the Khmer Rouge enabled them to take a stubborn attitude towards the U.N. peace process.

"We can assure you that we are not making any form of assistance to them," the minister said. "It is not in our interest to prolong the conflict... we want to see peace established as soon as possible."

Brazil president vows to fight charges

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Lately and tense, Brazilian President Fernando Collor De Mello vowed Monday to fight back against corruption charges and declared no one would force him from power before his term is up.

"I affirm that I will stay in office until the last day of my term" in March 1995, a nervous and tired Collor told newspaper correspondents at a breakfast briefing.

Brazil's financial markets soared in the wake of new allegations published at the

weekend by the weekly magazine Veja.

Veja quoted Renan Calheiros, a former parliamentary leader of Mr. Collor's PRN Party, as saying the president knew money was being stolen from the government in his name and did nothing.

A succession of businessmen and former government appointees have appeared in the press over the past few weeks to denounce the behaviour of Mr. Collor's election campaign treasurer and former right hand man, Paulo Cesar Farias.

Detractors say Mr. Farias set up a network of henchmen inside the federal government to skin off millions of dollars from state contracts and had anyone who got in his way fired.

Mr. Farias has denied the allegations and Mr. Collor says they are lies motivated by speculators and political enemies.

But Mr. Calheiros's charges, which he is likely to repeat in testimony to a congressional committee investigation of the affair, were the first to link Mr. Collor explicitly to corruption and provoked his fiercest reaction yet.

Despite Jackson, black mayors rally around Clinton

FLYNN, who earlier was cool towards Mr. Clinton and met twice in recent weeks with Mr. Perot.

Mr. Flynn, president of the Conference of Mayors, skipped a private meeting Democratic mayors held with Mr. Clinton. But after he addressed the full bipartisan group, Mr. Flynn called Mr. Clinton's proposal "a bold political stroke" and suggested he might endorse Mr. Clinton.

"It opens up the presidential campaign in a substantive way," Mr. Flynn said. "It'll be interesting to see how Bush and Perot respond to this."

Mr. Clinton's programme would be paid for by a combination of budget cuts and tax increases on the wealthy and corporations.

The black mayors went to lengths to avoid encouraging Rev. Jesse Jackson in his prolonged disagreement over Mr. Clinton's condemnation of rap singer Sister Souljah.

Mr. Maynard Jackson refused to discuss it at a news conference following Mr. Clinton's speech.

He had said earlier he disagreed with Mr. Clinton's timing and forum — a speech to Rev. Jackson's Rainbow Coalition convention — but not with the condemnation of the rapper's remarks, which were construed as inviting murder of white people.

"I would have asked him to make it before or after the event, and to tell Reverend Jackson beforehand," Maynard Jackson said last weekend.

That was a balanced line following by other black mayors as well, including New York Mayor David Dinkins.

Mr. Rice, the Seattle mayor, said Mr. Clinton's criticism of Sister Souljah was "the truth told at the wrong time."

The Sister Souljah flap with Rev. Jackson was regarded by many analysts as helping Mr. Clinton by allowing him to appear to be standing up to Rev. Jackson while opposing racial hatred. But the campaign also wanted to move on to the economic issue.

The black mayors, while not criticising Rev. Jesse Jackson, appeared to distance themselves from a leader who has inspired their own black supporters in the past — but who has also been a troublesome and divisive problem for the party's presidential hopes.

Meanwhile, a grim president Bush said Monday that if Texas billionaire Ross Perot had Mr. Bush's family investigated, "I don't think that's particularly American."

"There's something not very pleasant about all this," Mr. Bush, seemingly fighting to control his temper, told reporters.

"It's fine to investigate on one's own the vice president of the United States... but I feel a little tense about it if the reports are true of investigating my children, my family."

"I don't think that's particularly American," he said.

It was Mr. Bush's first public

comment on a Washington Post report Sunday that Mr. Perot, had investigators look into Mr. Bush's conduct after becoming irked with his performance as vice president.

Mr. Perot has come under a bipartisan barrage because of the Post's report. Mr. Perot leads Mr. Bush, a Republican, and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, in recent polls. The elections are on Nov. 3.

The newspaper's report also said in 1986 Mr. Perot had given the then vice president what Mr. Perot portrayed as a friendly warning that two of Mr. Bush's four sons were involved in improper activity.

Mr. Bush replied with a short handwritten note defending his sons, the newspaper said. It quoted him as telling Mr. Perot that they were "all straight arrows... uninvolved in intrigue."

The Washington Post said the Dallas tycoon launched his probe after months of dickerings with Mr. Bush over a plan Mr. Perot would provide information about U.S. servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War.

In San Diego, California, Vice President Dan Quayle said Mr. Perot would be dangerous if elected to the White House because he "apparently has a compulsion to investigate people."

Democratic national chairman Ron Brown said in an interview on NBC-TV's Today show the disclosures were "alarming."

COLUMN

5 boys rescued from camel jockey fate

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police and immigration officials rescued five small boys who were destined to be taken to the Gulf to work as camel jockeys, police said. Immigration officials stopped two four-year-old Bangladeshi boys, along with two young men posing as their parents, at Delhi International Airport before they could board a flight to Dubai. Deputy Police Commissioner S.K. Jain told Reuters. Immigration officials were suspicious because the two men did not look like parents and their passports appeared to be forged, he said. The children denied the men were their fathers when immigration officials questioned them, Mr. Jain said. The two men were charged with kidnapping with intent to cause grievous injury and with forging travel documents, Mr. Jain said. Police believe the boys were being taken to Dubai to ride camels in races, he said. Acting on information from the two young men, Delhi police later rescued three other Bangladeshi boys from a house in the capital and arrested two men and two women.

Woman has world's first 'permanent' artificial limbs

STOCKHOLM (R) — A 26-year-old Swedish woman who lost both legs in a tram accident has become the world's first recipient of artificial limbs attached to permanent anchors in the bone, a university professor said Monday. The woman, Teija Nilsson, stood on both artificial legs for the first time last week, 12 years after the accident. Her legs had been severed well above the knee, leaving her unsuitable for strap-on artificial limbs and confined to a wheelchair. "The challenge was that she should be able to walk at mid-summer this year, and she was — not to dance, but to walk," said Gothenburg University anatomy Professor Per-Ingvar Branemark, head of the team which developed the technique. The operation, known as "osseointegration," involves inserting a fitting made of titanium, a very light but tough metal, into the bone where the limb was severed. As the bone heals, it grows over the specially textured surface of the titanium, gaining a permanent hold and giving a secure and durable anchor for the detachable replacement limb, which can be clipped on. Nilsson was the first in the world to receive the new type of artificial limb. Prof. Branemark said.

20-volume Oxford Dictionary fits on disc

LONDON (R) — Only someone the build of Arnold Schwarzenegger could have carried around the complete Oxford English dictionary. Now anyone can just slip it into a pocket. Publisher has cast off the dusty image of the dictionary's weighty 12 volumes and with high-tech help have put the 59 million words and 2.9 million quotations on one compact disc (CD) readable by computer. "The new CD was launched Tuesday and it is the first time all 20 volumes are on one disc," a spokeswoman for publishers Oxford University Press said. The CD costs a third of the price of the 20-volume printed edition. The first complete Oxford English Dictionary, regarded as the ultimate authority on the English language, was published in 1928 and took 44 years to compile.

U.S. court denies appeal on Lennon FBI documents

WASHINGTON (R) — A historian seeking to force the U.S. government to turn over FBI documents compiled 20 years ago about slain Beatle John Lennon won a key legal victory. The nine-member high court, over the dissent of Justice Byron White, denied an appeal by the government aimed at keeping the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) documents secret. The historian, Jonathan Wiener, used more than 100 documents the FBI released earlier in writing a 1984 book, Come Together: John Lennon in His Time. But he sought an additional 69 documents that the FBI kept in its file on Lennon, who was murdered outside his New York apartment in 1980. Wiener, a history professor at the University of California at Irvine, requested the documents to show an abuse of government power to suppress political dissent.